



Speech By
Hon. Shannon Fentiman

MEMBER FOR WATERFORD

Record of Proceedings, 18 September 2025

ADJOURNMENT

Drugs, Testing

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (9.12 pm): What an absolutely disgraceful display of unaccountability and secrecy from those opposite.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Order, members! Pause the clock, please. Members, the member for Waterford has the call in the adjournment debate. We will set the clock to 2.50, please.

Ms FENTIMAN: What an absolutely disgraceful display of unaccountability and secrecy. Do members know how long we debated the health bill today? There was three hours and 40 minutes of debate. Every time someone on this side wanted to speak about pill testing, which the government had confirmed to the media they were moving amendments on, we were sat down. We could not actually talk about those amendments during consideration in detail because of a disgraceful filibuster from those opposite. You make an absolute mockery of this place.

The benefits of pill testing are lifesaving. That is not me saying that as a politician, it is Queensland's peak medical body. Those opposite would not know because they refuse to listen to the experts just as they refuse to listen to those with lived experience such as the family of Josh Tam. Josh died five years ago. He was one of six young Queenslanders who lost their lives in 2018.

Ms Camm interjected.

Ms FENTIMAN: I take that interjection.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Pause the clock, please.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Members to my left, order! The member for Waterford has the call. At that point I could not hear what she was saying.

Ms FENTIMAN: I take the interjection from the member for Whitsunday. I was talking about Josh, who died five years ago. He was one of six Queenslanders who lost their lives and the member for Whitsunday just said, 'Because he took drugs.' His family are pleading with the government and the Minister for Child Safety to do something to protect our children. I want to thank Josh's family. Unlike the member for Whitsunday, I want to thank them for bravely speaking out and calling for change.

Pill testing saves lives and the evidence is absolutely clear. The evidence that somehow this encourages drug taking is not borne out. According to CheQpoint, the drug-checking service, one in eight people disposed of their drugs, one in five planned to take less drugs as a result of the intervention and 50 per cent had never before spoken to a health professional about taking drugs. If you want to help young people stop a life of addiction, talk to a health professional and stop taking drugs then continue these drug-checking services. That is what the evidence says. That is why the Queensland

police support it. It is why our doctors support it. It is why our families support. I have two young stepdaughters aged 16 and 14. I want a drug-checking service for them and every other person in Queensland. This saves lives.