




Speech By  
**Hon. Tim Nicholls**

**MEMBER FOR CLAYFIELD**

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Record of Proceedings, 18 February 2025

**REVENUE LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Hon. TJ NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (8.16 pm): Sometimes when we come into this place we listen to a member give a speech and we scratch our heads and wonder what on earth they were talking about and what point they were trying to make. Occasionally that happens and we think that member will learn something and they will not make the same mistake time and time again. Unfortunately, when it comes to the member for Bundaberg, our education system, of which he was a part, has a lot to answer for. Who can remember some of the wisdom that he imparted when he was on this side of the House in the last term? Even his own team did not want to give him an extension of time to continue talking. I remember that when we moved a motion to allow the member for Bundaberg to be further heard his own team voted against it.

I say to those most welcome new LNP backbench members: do not take any advice from the member for Bundaberg when it comes to making a speech in this House. What he calls 'gusto' everyone with a modicum of common sense would call bluster. That is exactly what we are waiting for. After listening to him all last term and, unfortunately, tonight, we are still waiting for him to say something worthwhile.

When he praised the member for Lockyer—and he deserves praise as an outstanding member—he highlighted the talent that is on the LNP's side of the House. When we look at the frontbench on the opposition's side, all that is highlighted is the absolute dearth of talent on that side of the House. People whom former premiers of the Labor Party would not have had within cooee of the frontbench are now sitting over there. Colleagues, I say: pay as much attention to the member for Bundaberg as anyone else does—that is, none at all.

Queensland families know that this side of the House will always be on their side as we deal with the cost-of-living pressures. The same cannot be said about the Labor Party. One thing we know about the Labor Party is that there is not a tax that they did not like, there is no-one's hard-earned money that they did not want to trouse and there is not a tax or levy that they did not want to increase. That is why we took decisive action in the first revenue bill introduced by the Treasurer in the new government to actually deal with cost-of-living pressures and to reduce the cost of living for ordinary Queenslanders no matter where they live. Nowhere is it more important to do so than in the area of health and the delivery of health services. When it comes to doing that, we are doing what we said we would do within the time that we said we would do it. We are continuing to deliver on our 100-day commitment to deliver a fresh start for Queensland. Queenslanders voted for a fresh start because they were tired of Labor's excuses.

What has happened since then is that ordinary Queenslanders have come out and said what a good idea it is that we have taken the steps we have to remove Labor's GP patient tax. Guess what? The fewer people who go to GPs the more people who turn up in our emergency departments and the greater the load on the health system. That means the slower the system will become. We are taking positive steps to deal with the issues that Labor presided over for 10 years—those being, the worst

ambulance ramping rate in the nation at 45 per cent and a blowout in the number of people on elective surgery waiting lists to over 64,000 people. That is why we are taking decisive action to deal with it. That decisive action includes removing the patient tax that was being put on by the Labor Party.

Do not just take our word for it. Take the word of Maria Boulton, the former president of the AMAQ. It is not easy for these organisations to stand up with an opposition and say the government is getting it wrong, especially when it comes to tax. Dr Boulton joined with us and made it clear that it was so important to her members that this tax be dealt with and that certainty in relation to the payment of tax was delivered in the state of Queensland. There is one thing that people hate and that is an uncertain tax system. That is what they had under the Labor Party.

What has happened since the Treasurer has brought this in? Nick Yim, the President of the AMAQ, has endorsed this measure, as he endorsed the real-time data portal that we opened. He said that this will give GPs and patients certainty. The AMA Queensland has been calling for all private medical practices to be exempt from this new interpretation. What did Cath Hester, the Chair of the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners Queensland and a board member of one of our health services—so she knows the impact of it—say? She supported the measure saying that as Australia's peak body for general practitioners and GP training, the RACGP has long advocated for the tax to be abolished. This is a good move and it continues a proud tradition of the LNP introducing revenue bills in the very early stages of a new government to reduce taxes, fees and charges that have been hiked up by the Labor Party.

I now turn to the exemption that is being provided for first home buyers when they buy their first home. There is a sense of déjà vu about this. I can remember in 2011 when Andrew Fraser removed the principal place of residence concession for people who were buying their first home, increasing the cost for first home buyers by up to \$8,000. He did it in the June 2011 budget. He increased this on top of increasing all the other charges, including the scheduled increase in public transport fares. The first thing that the LNP government did at that time was to reintroduce the first home buyer concession, saving first home buyers \$8,500.

Andrew Fraser—the intellectual of the Labor Party at the time—said that stamp duty is a 'relic of times gone by'. He said it is inefficient. He said that it would be at the top of the state's hit list if he could afford to do it. We knew that they had already lost the state's AAA credit rating and he could not afford to do it. What did he do three months later? He effectively doubled the stamp duty for first home buyers claiming the principal place of residence concession. It is in Labor's DNA.

Nothing shows that more than the arguments we have heard here tonight. It is still the old arguments of envy and avarice when trying to raise stamp duty. What they say is, 'All the millionaires out there buying their first home for \$5 million will not be paying stamp duty.' As if that happens. We know that under Labor at a federal and state level people are struggling to get a deposit, let alone buy a reasonable house in a reasonable place.

We have been lectured to about supply. Why is supply so constrained in the state of Queensland? Labor tied it up in red tape for 10 years. People cannot buy a block of land to build on because of Labor's red tape and regulation. We are taking another step to implement the policy that we took to the election to ensure that first home buyers are given the best opportunity they can to buy their first home. Whether it is an apartment, whether it is a small house, whether it is a large house or whether it is acreage, your dream can still come true in Queensland under the LNP—a dream that increasingly was being choked off by the avarice, envy and incompetence of the Labor Party after 10 years in office.

We know the Labor Party hate home ownership. They hate private home owners. They hate aspiration. They hate people working to improve themselves in life. They want to tax people out of existence. They want to make everyone who wants a home pay fealty to the state—to rent off the state of Queensland or to buy a Queensland government developed house rather than support private industry to develop, build, sell and provide housing. That is the way we do it. That is the way we secure home ownership—the great Australian dream for Australians, as it has been since the time of Menzies. It is the LNP—the coalition parties—that have delivered the great Australian dream of home ownership for over half a century here in Australia. It is the LNP here in Queensland that will continue to deliver that dream for young Queenslanders no matter where they live.

From Currumbin to the cape and from Brisbane to Bedourie we will continue to deliver services to Queenslanders. We will continue to make cost of living affordable. We will continue to make it appropriate and affordable for people to see a GP. It is only a pity the Albanese government are not doing the same thing and are pushing it all back on the state of Queensland and the LNP to solve their problems. No doubt their time will come soon enough.