




Speech By
Hon. Tim Nicholls

MEMBER FOR CLAYFIELD

Record of Proceedings, 22 May 2025

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Further Answer to Question, Sangster, Mr S

 **Hon. TJ NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (11.17 am): In December 2024 I appointed Sam Sangster as the independent reviewer of the former government's failed capacity expansion program, as I explained in my answer earlier today. Sam's health infrastructure credentials are unparalleled in Australia, having now led client-side planning and delivery of more than 135 hospitals, with a total project value in excess of \$28 billion. I think earlier I said more than \$25 billion; it is more than \$28 billion.

On 15 May Mr Sangster informed me that he had been called to appear before the New South Wales Independent Commission Against Corruption investigation into School Infrastructure NSW—allegations concerning the former chief executive, staff and others of that organisation, not the organisation that Mr Sangster was operating and was running. That is known as Operation Landan and that has been publicly reported in the *Daily Mail*. The details of that investigation have been reported in the *Daily Mail* and are also in the *Hansard* of the New South Wales parliament—facts that are easily ascertainable by anyone wishing to do so.

Mr Crisafulli: If they got out of bed earlier.

Mr NICHOLLS: I take that interjection. Mr Sangster's appearance pertains to his role as chief executive of Health Infrastructure NSW and a reported falling out with Anthony Manning, who is being investigated by ICAC for his role as CEO of School Infrastructure NSW. Mr Sangster had a falling out with the person who is the subject of the investigation by ICAC.

Government members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Mr NICHOLLS: In fact, Mr Sangster sacked Mr Manning from his role at Health Infrastructure NSW. The falling out between Mr Manning and Mr Sangster was referenced in the subsequent hiring process for the role of CEO of Education Infrastructure, but that hiring process, although Mr Sangster's actions were noted, did not require any further comment or information from Mr Sangster at that time. He had a falling out with Mr Manning, he sacked him, that sacking was noted, but it was not taken up when Mr Manning was subsequently hired, although Mr Sangster had done the right thing by recording his reasons for his concerns on Mr Manning's record. He could not have done any more, I would submit.

Mr Stevens: Got any more good questions over there?

Mr NICHOLLS: Mr Speaker, it will not surprise you to know that I take that interjection. On 13 May 2025 the ICAC commissioner noted—

I think there are the questions around, okay, are there specifics in the detail about the falling out with Mr Sangster that we need to know a bit more about

The ICAC is investigating whether between 2017 and 2024 then School Infrastructure NSW Chief Executive Manning and other School Infrastructure staff or contractors partially exercised their official functions by intentionally subverting appropriate recruitment practices to benefit friends and businesses; improperly awarding contracts to friends and business associates; and misallocating funds from school projects.

As I said this morning, it should be those opposite investigated for their own conduct and misallocation of funds, as we have seen through their \$12 billion health budget black hole, their \$7 billion in budget blowouts on hospital projects and \$2 billion worth of unfunded critical maintenance that has left our health infrastructure in such a state of crisis.

In addition, and in referring to the letter that was tabled by the Leader of the Opposition and his comments made in reference to his question, I believe that the Leader of the Opposition has misled the House and I will be writing to you about that matter, Mr Speaker.