



Speech By
Andrew Powell

MEMBER FOR GLASS HOUSE

Record of Proceedings, 30 April 2019

HEALTH LEGISLATION (SCOPE OF PRACTICE) AMENDMENT REGULATION

Disallowance of Statutory Instrument

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (6.18 pm): I am sorry, but the member for Thuringowa is simply wrong. He started by suggesting that it was this side of the chamber that had its priorities all wrong. It is not. It is the Labor Party that decided that changing the name of the Children's Hospital is more important than providing the services in that hospital and other hospitals across this state. Labor and Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk's priorities are simply wrong.

Although the examples are many, there is no more disastrous example than what we are seeing in the health system at the moment—a health system in crisis, a health system where Labor's highest and only priority is removing the name of a pioneering woman, Lady Cilento, from the name of the state's primary children's hospital. My colleagues the members for Mudgeeraba and Caloundra have outlined the extraordinary legacy of Lady Phyllis Cilento and why her name is fitting for our Children's Hospital and how removing it is so very offensive.

Let me give a couple of examples of where the \$500,000 that it has cost this government to change the name could have been put to better use. A 60-year-old female constituent contacted my office who had, at the time this name change was occurring, suffered a brain aneurysm initially treated at the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital. She did have ongoing monitoring but unfortunately it was discovered she had a second one. At the time this name change was occurring, when the priorities of this minister—of this government—were focused on changing the name of our Children's Hospital, she was listed as a category 1 patient and told she would have surgery in 30 days. Instead of taking that seriously, we have a government focused on removing Lady Phyllis Cilento's name from the Children's Hospital. One hundred and seventy-five days later that constituent contacted me having had surgery booked, cancelled, booked, cancelled, booked, cancelled.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Order! Member for Glass House, I think you are treading a fine line. I ask you to bring it back to the motion being debated, not simply shrouding it with the name change and then going down that path.

Mr POWELL: At a time when this government was focusing on stripping the pre-eminent name of Lady Phyllis Cilento from our hospital, at a time when that was its priority—and we have seen the subsequent results of this minister taking his eye off the ball in the health system—we have patients like that constituent of mine waiting 175 days for surgery. Thankfully she did contact my office. Thankfully that surgery was booked within a week and she is at home recovering now. But would it not be far better for the people of Queensland, for the patients of Queensland, to know that they have a health system that will take them seriously, that they have a health minister who will take them seriously, rather than worrying about the name of a hospital, a name that was given on the back of incredible philanthropic and medical service to this great state?

I have had other constituents: a gentleman from Woodford, a category 2 patient, who had to wait 22 months to see a neurologist; a grandmother who tried to get her—

Mr HARPER: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. The member is drifting off.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Glass House, I will ask you to come back to the debate.

Mr BLEIJIE: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. In the contribution led by the Deputy Premier this evening on behalf of the government, the Deputy Premier gave personal examples of the hospital, both under the old name and the new name, and the member for Glass House is simply doing the same.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Kawana, you have no point of order. I ask the member for Glass House to continue.

Mr POWELL: Again I say that this government has its priorities all wrong. When it comes to the health system it wants to rip a name off a hospital instead of providing services. It has cost Queensland taxpayers \$500,000 that could have paid for a set of new teeth for a 19-year-old from Glass House Mountains. That \$500,000 could have fixed the video conferencing in Rockhampton Hospital so Central West patients do not have to travel down the highway to get their blood test results when they are suffering from cancer. That \$500,000 has simply been wasted because of a political witch-hunt by the member for South Brisbane to remove the name of an amazing woman—let me say it again: an amazing woman—from our Children's Hospital in this state. Those opposite spruik about being about gender equality and raising up women in this state. We in the LNP gave one of the highest recognitions possible to Lady Phyllis Cilento by naming the Children's Hospital after her. It is clear that those opposite, instead of providing the health services that this state needs, have simply gone to all lengths possible to score a political win by removing that name from the Children's Hospital. It is not acceptable. I will be supporting this motion. All Queenslanders support this motion.