



Speech By
Rob Molhoek

MEMBER FOR SOUTHPORT

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HEALTH AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

 **Mr MOLHOEK** (Southport—LNP) (4.55 pm): I rise to speak on the Health and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018. As outlined in the explanatory notes, there are a number of objectives to this bill including streamlining the regulatory framework for prescribing medicinal cannabis in Queensland; establish the notifiable dust lung disease register which, given how passionate some contributions from members were when this was last brought before the House, is an important step towards further recognition, support and prevention of these diseases; amend the Radiation Safety Act; clarify the provisions about research that involve removing tissue from adults and children and other common-sense changes which will assist in diagnostic and quality control practices; make amendments to enable human body parts used for the study and practice of anatomy to be lawfully cremated without a corresponding death certificate or the approval of an independent doctor; and, finally, amend the Retirement Villages Act 1999 to clarify a recent amendment in relation to timely payment of exit entitlements at retirement villages and make associated amendments to the Duties Act 2001.

In particular, I want to take some time to speak on the changes to the Public Health (Medicinal Cannabis) Act 2016 and the changes to the Retirement Villages Act 1999. I welcome the changes to the Public Health (Medicinal Cannabis) Act 2016 which significantly streamline the regulatory framework for prescribing medicinal cannabis in Queensland. Following changes by the federal government resulting in the duplication of the TGA approval process for access to medicinal cannabis, the Public Health (Medicinal Cannabis) Act 2016 adds unnecessary red tape which Queenslanders just do not need. Having two approval processes assessing the same matters introduces the potential for Queensland and the TGA to reach different conclusions about applications which may weaken confidence in the regulatory framework and approval process.

I believe that having access to medicinal cannabis is an important option for Queenslanders. I have been contacted by a number of constituents who have expressed their wishes to try medicinal cannabis to assist in their complex health needs. Unfortunately, many of these constituents have also expressed that trying to obtain medicinal cannabis is difficult and I am hopeful that the removal of this duplication of process will make it easier for those who need this option to access the treatment that they need.

Finally, I want to speak about the amendments to the Retirement Villages Act 1999 and want to put on record my disappointment that we are debating this matter in the context of a health bill which is completely unrelated. If the bill is passed in its present form, it will amend the Retirement Villages Act 1999 to require retirement village operators in Queensland to buy back a freehold unit from a resident if the unit has not sold within 18 months of the date they leave the retirement village. I simply do not support these changes. They are attempting to correct a blunder by the minister, and quite frankly are doing a terrible job of doing so.

Retirement village operators in Queensland should not be forced to buy back a freehold unit from a resident. During the previous term of government we spent months reviewing what was then the new Retirement Villages Act. As a committee, together with Shane King, the member for Capalaba and others, we visited many home parks and retirement villages and it is not a simple and straightforward matter.

There are many different tenure arrangements. Often they are quite complex. To ram through these changes in a health bill is simply unacceptable. I support the amendment proposed by the member for Kawana that this matter be dealt with separately from this health legislation.