



COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
INSURANCE: MEDICAL INDEMNITY
SPEECH

Thursday, 9 October 2003

BY AUTHORITY OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SPEECH

Date Thursday, 9 October 2003
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Questioner
Speaker Gillard, Julia, MP

Source House
Proof No
Responder
Question No.

Ms GILLARD (Lalor) (9.01 am)—I move:

That so much of the standing and sessional orders be suspended as would prevent the Minister for Health and Ageing from immediately coming into the Chamber to make a statement explaining the Government's role in creating the medical indemnity crisis, which has caused hundreds of doctors to lodge their resignations and may result in a shutdown of hospitals except for the provision of emergency services from 27 October and particularly addressing the following:

- (1) why the Government did nothing to address the medical indemnity crisis until the collapse of UMP;
- (2) why, following the collapse of UMP, the Government has sent levy notices to doctors which are based on incorrect calculations and are an attempt to get doctors to pay the wrong amount;
- (3) on what date did the Government receive a report from the Government Actuary which indicated the calculations may be wrong and need amendment over time;
- (4) why in this House yesterday the Minister for Health and Ageing claimed that the Government relied on UMP calculations when in fact the Government received the Government Actuary's report and was warned the calculations may be wrong and need amendment over time; and
- (5) why the Government is refusing to table the levy calculations claiming they are the property of UMP when in fact they are detailed in a Government Actuary's report that the Government has tried to hide.

The medical indemnity crisis is 100 per cent the fault of the Howard government—

Mr McGAURAN (Gippsland—Deputy Leader of the House) (9.02 a.m.)—I move:

That the Member be not further heard.

Question put.