



COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES



**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
**MATTERS OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE**

**Health Portfolio**

**SPEECH**

**Tuesday, 25 February 2014**

BY AUTHORITY OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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## SPEECH

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<b>Questioner</b>	<b>Responder</b>
<b>Speaker</b> Perrett, Graham, MP	<b>Question No.</b>

**Mr PERRETT** (Moreton) (15:46): I take up the last words of the previous speaker in terms of saying that Minister Nash is doing a 'fine job'. Surely, that sums up those opposite—

**Mr Dutton:** Stop there!

**Mr PERRETT:** in terms of their approach to preventive health. We heard from the member for Dickson all about derision and division—there was no vision at all!

A government member interjecting—

**Mr PERRETT:** Then we hear from a National Party member—and there is no plan for the bush. I speak as a Queenslander, the most decentralised state. What do we have happening in Queensland? As I am sure you are well aware, Mr Deputy Speaker Scott, the reality is that they have dropped the ball when it comes to health. We have doctors about to go on strike up and down the eastern seaboard. Up where the giant mango went missing, we have got doctors about to go on strike. Why? Because the LNP have deserted doctors.

Last week I went to the Pineapple Hotel to hear from 536 VMOs talking about the way that Campbell Newman and Lawrence Springborg have come hunting for doctors. They have handed out an amazing approach to preventive health. Their approach to preventive health is to get rid of doctors. They have handed them a take-it-or-leave-it approach, basically, to welfare and medical health by saying, 'Here is the contract. We have done all the negotiating possible'—and of course the head of the AMA in Queensland Christian Rowan, the LNP candidate—

**Mr Dutton:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise on a point of order on relevance. The motion before the House, the MPI, is tightly defined by the mover of the MPI, the shadow health minister. She has put the MPI forward in relation to preventive health, and it is absolutely ridiculous to suggest that the member for Moreton could be within the confines of that MPI. I would ask you, please and quite sincerely, to bring the member for Moreton back to the MPI to be relevant to what is going on in this debate, not what is happening in Queensland. At the moment he is completely out of order.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER (Hon. BC Scott): I thank the minister for his point of order. The member for Moreton will observe that the MPI before the House is that the government's failure to implement refers to this government, not another government in Australia. I call the member for Moreton.

**Mr PERRETT:** Obviously, the health minister is aware that this is a Federation. This government does not run many hospitals. Actually the Queensland hospitals are run by the Queensland government. But I do take his point. I listened with much interest to his point about the union health dollars. I went to meet with the union, represented—

**Mr Dutton:** By the HSU—

**Mr PERRETT:** No, we do not have an HSU in Queensland. I met with the AMA, a very powerful union. Christian Rowan is the head of the AMA in Queensland, and he had an interesting approach to this. Because the minister started speaking about unions in his response to the MPI, I assumed it was the topic that we should address.

Obviously preventive health is very important—we all know that. In fact I encourage every member here tomorrow to come up to the Richard Baker Room to have a diabetes health check so that we can all do our little bit to give a personal example to our electorates about how we can be healthy. All day tomorrow, I will be up there with Ken Wyatt—and maybe after the book launch tonight, you might need to go, I say to the parliamentary secretary. So it is important that we focus on preventive health, and having a healthy workforce that is well treated is an important part of that. Getting rid of thousands of doctors, many of them specialists in Queensland,

who are going to withdraw their labour because of this incredible industrial relations approach of those opposite, is an interesting approach.

The minister did talk about unions and the role they play and so it was interesting to hear these doctors in Queensland last week say that they have been told by Lawrence Springborg that they should be able to work any shift that they are directed to work by their boss—without consultation and irrespective of parental duties. In fact they would get rid of a no-disadvantage clause in their work contracts. They would also possibly have arbitrary dismissal with no recourse back to the doctor and no binding arbitration process for dispute resolution.

This is a recipe for disaster being delivered in Queensland at the moment. It is going to mean that there will be longer waiting lists and more people turning up to emergency departments especially when the minister brings in his tax on GP visits that they flagged in the Griffith by-election and which they are hiding in Western Australia as we go to an election over there. *(Time expired)*