




The Honourable Tim Nicholls MP
Minister for Health and Ambulance Services

Queensland Legislative Assembly	
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Clerk's Signature: <u>[Signature]</u>	

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20 February 2025



Hon Pat Weir MP
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly
Parliament House

Dear Mr Speaker Pat

I refer to comments made by Mrs Margaret (Margie) Nightingale MP, Member for Inala, in the Legislative Assembly on 19 February 2025. During the period allotted for Adjournment Debates, the Member for Inala stated "*Under Labor, MND Queensland would have received \$600,000 per year for the next four years*", and that under the Crisafulli Government, "*this funding has been cut.*"¹

I submit that in making this statement, the Member for Inala deliberately misled the House and has therefore committed a contempt of Parliament, in breach of Standing Order 266(2).

As you are aware, there are three elements to be proven to establish that a Member has committed the contempt of deliberately misleading the House:

1. The statement must have been misleading;
2. The Member making the statement must have known, at the time the statement was made, that it was incorrect; and
3. In making the statement, the Member intended to mislead the House.

I submit that the Member for Inala had evidence contrary to her allegations that the Crisafulli Government had cut funding to Motor Neurone Disease Association Queensland (MND Queensland) and deliberately chose to mislead the House. My evidence to support this claim is outlined below.

The statement must have been misleading

The Member for Inala stated that "*Under Labor, MND Queensland would have received \$600,000 per year for the next four years*", and that under the Crisafulli Government, "*this funding has been cut.*"²

The funding referenced in this statement is a commitment made by Labor on 25 October 2024, during the caretaker period on the eve of last year's election. Therefore, this was an election commitment and there was no funding available to be cut by the Crisafulli Government.

¹ Queensland, *Adjournment Debates*, Legislative Assembly, 19 February 2025 (Margaret Nightingale, Member for Inala).

² *Ibid.*

The Member making the statement must have known, at the time the statement was made, that it was incorrect

It is clear the Member for Inala was aware of this election commitment, as she was tagged in a Facebook post by MND Queensland on 25 October 2024 detailing the funding. The Facebook post states:

“Ahead of tomorrow’s state election, MND Queensland welcomes a major funding commitment from the Miles Labor Government. If re-elected, they will provide \$600,000 per year over four years to support vital services for people living with Motor Neurone Disease.

This follows a one-off \$200,000 donation earlier this year, aimed at improving care for those over 65 who don’t qualify for the NDIS.”³

Therefore, it is reasonable to assume the Member for Inala understood this was an election commitment, rather than allocated funding.

In making the statement, the Member intended to mislead the House

Upon review of the archived broadcast, it can be seen that the Member for Inala is reading from a prewritten speech, which proves that Mrs Nightingale intended to assert a claim against the Crisafulli Government that is factually incorrect.

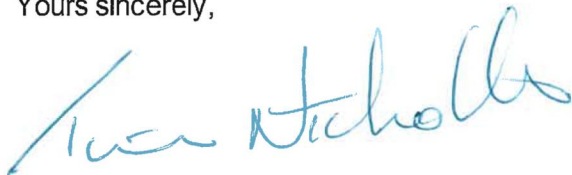
Conclusion

This evidence clearly outlines that the Member for Inala has failed to uphold the standard expected of Members of Parliament and has deliberately misled the Parliament through her statement made on 19 February 2025.

Due to the important work that this organisation does for Queenslanders living with MND, I believe that an apology and a referral to the Ethics Committee is justified.

Should you require any further information or any clarification of matters, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,



Tim Nicholls MP
Minister for Health and Ambulance Services
Member for Clayfield

³ Facebook, *Big News for Queenslanders Living with MND*, 25 October 2024 (MND Queensland)

Our community is also calling on the government to support our frontline police. Concerns are high in the community I represent regarding our police beats and their status and staffing. I can inform the parliament tonight that I have been advised that vacant positions within our police beats have not been backfilled by the Crisafulli LNP government. In fact, we need more police.


Mr Purdie interjected.

Mr de BRENNI: The Minister for Police laughs about it. The citizens of Rochedale South are not laughing. I have been defending police beats for a decade, and I welcome the local councillor also raising the alarm about LNP plans to close the Rochedale South Police Beat because after that we saw an embarrassing backdown from the Minister for Police. It took local community members to mobilise the police, not the LNP government or the minister.

The flying squad is welcome but, when the flying squad moves on, we need local guaranteed resourcing. Tonight, we call on the LNP to guarantee that our local police beats and stations will remain operational and fully staffed. For a government who say they are about keeping Queenslanders safe, why would they even consider closing down police stations in the electorate that I represent?

During the election campaign, Queenslanders were told the LNP would deliver. David Crisafulli said Queenslanders could trust him. How can they? We are over three months in and the community is already doing this bad government's heavy lifting.

Redlands Electorate, School Leadership


 **Mrs YOUNG** (Redlands—LNP) (9.03 pm): I rise today to acknowledge and celebrate the incredible young leaders in our Redlands schools, particularly those who have recently been inducted into 2025 leadership roles across our primary and high schools. Over the past weeks I have been, and over the next few weeks I will be, privileged to attend leadership ceremonies at our local schools, where students have stepped forward to take on responsibilities that will help shape their school communities. These young leaders, whether they are school captains, house captains, student council representatives or in other leadership roles, are not just wearing a badge; they are embracing a role of service, integrity and responsibility.

Last Thursday, I attended the St Rita's leadership ceremony in Victoria Point, a place that is special to me and my family as that is where my son completed his primary school education. I would like to take this opportunity and acknowledge by name their school leadership team: Isabella Rodrigues, Abby Cameron, Georgia Swaby, Aleah Gibbs, Natasha Leigh, Amalia Stanbridge, Neil Wong Kai In, Tilly Bastow, Ella Gilmartin, Olivia Robertson, Luke Spence, Julien Coats and Lani Taginakaibure. You are all very special to your school and I wish you all the best in 2025. Thank you for allowing me to share in your ceremony and I wish you and your year 6 cohort all the best for the year ahead. I also look forward to joining Victoria Point State High School on Monday, my only Redlands electorate high school, for its leadership ceremony.

Strong school leadership is about more than titles; it is about setting an example, fostering inclusivity and encouraging others to strive for their best. Our young leaders are learning the values of teamwork, resilience and problem solving—skills that will serve them well beyond the school gates. Leadership in our schools also plays a critical role in building a positive school culture. When students take ownership of their school environment, they help to create a sense of pride, respect and belonging. They become role models for their peers and advocates for their fellow students. They remind us all that leadership is not just about decision-making; it is about making a difference.

I congratulate the newly elected school leaders of Redlands. Your community is proud of you and I encourage you to lead with kindness, courage and a commitment to making your school the very best it can be. The future of Redlands is bright and it starts with the strong, capable young leaders we celebrate today.

Motor Neurone Disease


 **Mrs NIGHTINGALE** (Inala—ALP) (9.06 pm): I rise to speak on a matter that affects the lives of thousands of Queenslanders: the ongoing battle against motor neurone disease, MND, and the battle for funding. We all know that MND is a cruel, life-limiting neurological condition that affects not only the individuals diagnosed but also their families and communities. It robs people of their independence, their mobility and, tragically, their lives. While there is currently no cure, we know that, with the right support, care and resources, we can improve the quality of life for those living with this devastating disease.

Recently, I had the privilege of visiting MND Queensland, a service in my electorate that is essential to the people of Queensland with MND, their families and their carers. MND Queensland is recognised as the state's leading MND support organisation with its in-house multidisciplinary team dedicated to providing a range of individualised services and supports. During my visit I met with Stacey Thorpe, the CEO, and heard about their in-house team, which does great work providing support and equipment for sufferers across Queensland.

The Miles Labor government recognised how essential this service is and committed to fund MND Queensland. Under Labor, MND Queensland would have received \$600,000 per year for the next four years. Under the Crisafulli LNP government, guess what—this funding has been cut. This government has failed this organisation and it has failed Queenslanders with MND. I call on the Crisafulli LNP government to match the former Labor government's commitment and provide this desperately needed funding, not cut the funding. The funding is for telehealth-based support, for much needed counselling services for individuals and their families and for the provision of crucial equipment for those in urgent need. Cutting the funding will impact significantly on those who are isolated in rural and remote parts of Queensland.

I know that cutting is in the Crisafulli government's DNA, but I urge the Crisafulli government to step up and fund this great organisation. These services are vital and enable those with MND to maintain as much independence and quality of life as possible. Tragically, there is no cure for this disease and it seems there is no cure for the Crisafulli cuts that have only just begun.

Far North Queensland, Roads

 **Ms JAMES** (Barron River—LNP) (9.09 pm): Fourteen months ago the Jasper floods hit Far North Queensland hard and our region and our roads are still a long way from recovered. Over the past three weeks, Far North Queensland has had some of the worst road closures I have seen in the almost 20-plus years of living in Cairns. Hundreds of trucks were stranded with food spoiling before it could reach Far North Queensland. Grocery shelves in the two majors were empty. Thousands of parents were unable to make nutritious school lunches or meals for their families. Local bakeries were closed as they could not get flour, so being the breadwinner was literally true for anyone who scored a loaf. Finding household items and food was like pirates searching for treasure, but that treasure was a tomato or lettuce, and, sadly, many of us did not find any treasure for weeks. People were scrambling and panic buying when food did arrive thanks to flights organised by the Deputy Premier. There were weeks with no tourists making the drive north and tails of those who tried the 22-hour detour, getting lost and needing rescuing. The region has lost \$7 million through cancellations in the past two weeks, forward bookings for the next four weeks are down 44 per cent and the forecast impact by the end of March is approximately \$50 million in lost customers.

The Bruce Highway is an absolute goat track. Every year it closes to Far North Queensland. We have to deal with this issue because Labor governments did nothing for decades. This closure does not impact Brisbane. That is why Labor never cared. They do not care about Far North Queensland and Far North Queenslanders have had an absolute gutful.

I will share one story with members. That is of CSF Industries—a Cairns based large heavy industry business that services the construction industry and employs up to 180 people. This company relies heavily on the transportation of steel and other heavy equipment by road from Townsville to Cairns. It was at risk of being in breach of contracts, with subsequent knock-on delays, due to the inability to get items to Cairns from the major industry service centre in Townsville. CSF came within two days of have to stand down all of its staff.

Thankfully, the roads opened, but Far North Queensland's reputation as a reliable source of materials for major projects across Northern Australia is at significant risk. One Cairns company has tendered for a \$3.5 million job which would secure the livelihood of over 100 jobs and this potential contract is in jeopardy as the client is now considering suppliers in the south.

In Far North Queensland many roads are vulnerable and need considerable upgrades. I stand here not only as a representative of Barron River right now but as a representative of all of Far North Queensland. On behalf of my parliamentary colleagues in Mulgrave and Cook, we must ensure Far North Queensland remains accessible.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): Member for Barron River, before you resume your seat I would ask you to withdraw some unparliamentary language you used in your contribution.

Ms JAMES: I withdraw.

 **Motor Neurone Disease Association of Queensland** ...
25 Oct 2024 · 🌐

♥ Big News for Queenslanders Living with MND ♥

Ahead of tomorrow's state election, MND Queensland welcomes a major funding commitment from the Miles Labor Government. If re-elected, they will provide \$600,000 per year over four years to support vital services for people living with Motor Neurone Disease.

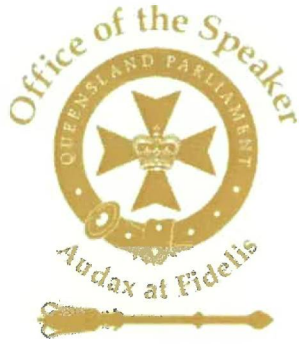
This follows a one-off \$200,000 donation earlier this year, aimed at improving care for those over 65 who don't qualify for the NDIS.

MND Queensland CEO, Stacey Thorpe, says this commitment is a turning point for the MND community, allowing us to continue providing crucial multidisciplinary services that enhance independence and quality of life.

📖 Read the full media release here: www.mndqld.org.au/news/17/mediareleaseqldgovtfunding

#MNDQueensland #GovernmentSupport #MilesLabor #MNDSupport #QueenslandElection

Steven Miles Shannon Fentiman MP Yvette D'Ath MP Milton Dick MP Leeanne Enoch MP Queensland Labor Bart Mellish Chris Whiting MP Jonty Bush - Member for Cooper Glenn Butcher MP Margie Nightingale MP Charis Mullen MP Courier Mail 10 News First 9 News Gold Coast 7NEWS Brisbane 9 News ABC Southern Queensland ABC News Brisbane Times Anthony Albanese Corrine McMillan MP - State Member for Mansfield Grace Grace MP Mark Bailey MP Dr Eric Richman - Labor for Moggill Jess Pugh MP for Mount Ommaney Mark Ryan MPMick de Brenni Peter Russo MP - Toohay



Your Ref:

Our Ref: 250220-OUT-Inala

20 February 2025

Mrs Margie Nightingale MP
Member for Inala
PO Box 75
Inala Qld 4077

By E-mail: Inala@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Margie

The Office of the Speaker received correspondence on 20 February 2025 from the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services. The said matter concerns whether you have deliberately misled the House. A copy of this correspondence is attached.

Deliberately misleading the House is listed as an example of behaviour that the House may treat as a contempt (see *Standing Order 266 (2)*).

Standing Order 269 (5) provides that in considering whether such a matter should be referred to the Ethics Committee, the Speaker may request further information from the person the subject of the allegation. Accordingly, I am writing to you pursuant to that Standing Order.

Standing Order 269 (4) provides that in considering whether the matter should be referred to the Ethics Committee, the Speaker shall take account of the degree of importance of the matter which has been raised and whether an adequate apology or explanation has been made in respect of the matter.

I wish to stress that I have not yet formed a view as to whether this particular allegation should be referred to the Ethics Committee. However, as a matter of course, I remind all members who are the subject of such allegations of the long-established convention that should a Member become aware they have inadvertently misled the House, they should, at the earliest opportunity, correct the record and apologise for their inadvertence.

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George St Brisbane Queensland 4000 Australia

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Should you wish to provide me with further information to assist me in making a determination as to whether the matter should be referred to the Ethics Committee under *Standing Order 269* please provide your response by COB 6 March 2025.

In the meantime, should your office have any queries relating to this matter, they may be directed to my Executive Officer, Coral-Leah Kemp, by email to Speaker@parliament.qld.gov.au or on 07 3553 6700.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Pat Weir', with a stylized flourish at the end.

HON PAT WEIR MP
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly

Enc.

Margie Nightingale MP

State Member for Inala



Working for our Community.

13 March 2025

The Honourable Pat Weir MP
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly
Queensland Parliament
BRISBANE QLD 4000

VIA EMAIL: office.ofthespeaker@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Mr Speaker

I acknowledge your correspondence dated 20 February 2025 regarding an allegation raised by the Member for Clayfield in respect of a contribution I made during an Adjournment Statement on Wednesday, 19 February 2025.

The contribution I made in the Legislative Assembly of the Queensland Parliament was in relation to the important issue of motor neurone disease and the importance of properly funding the service to support Queenslanders and ultimately to support a cure. In particular, the Member for Clayfield has taken issue with this statement: *“Under Labor, MND Queensland would have received \$600,000 per year for the next four years. Under the Crisafulli LNP government, guess what – this funding has been cut.”*

It is true that the \$600,000 funding announcement for the next four years was made during the 2024 State General Election by the then Labor Government. This was important funding for this vital service. Had the then Labor Government been returned to office in October 2024, MND Queensland would have received funding. As such, the first part of the statement, which the Member for Clayfield has taken issue with, is correct.

It is clear though that during the 2024 State General Election the then Liberal National Party (LNP) Opposition were matching the then Labor Government’s funding commitments in certain areas. It is unfortunate that the then LNP Opposition did not match the \$600,000 funding commitment by the then Labor Government during the 2024 State General Election. It is this action by the then LNP Opposition to match some funding commitments by the then Labor Government and not others which I based my contribution on.

This is because the conscious decision by the then LNP Opposition to match some funding commitments and not others, in particular not matching the \$600,000 funding commitment to MND Queensland, is a cut to the funding opportunity that would have been extended to MND Queensland.

Former Speaker Simpson stated in a ruling on 16 October 2014 that *“the nature of political debate is that members engage in argument by discussing opposing viewpoints or different opinions, often at times using different statistics or methods of calculation”*. Speaker, I submit that this matter is one of political debate of opposing viewpoints. I genuinely hold the view that a funding commitment was made, it was not matched, and therefore the funding opportunity had been cut.

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Phone: (07) 3737 2100

Email: Inala@parliament.qld.gov.au



@MargieNightingaleMP



In that respect, I refer to a previous Speaker's Ruling, that of former Speaker Pitt where he stated: "*I do think that the issue in this complaint comes from the Leader of the Opposition's use of the term 'wipe'. If the term 'removed' has been preferred I dare say I would not have had to make this ruling.*" Then Speaker Pitt went onto dismissing the matter as they considered the matter in the "*realm of technical and does not warrant the further attention of the House*".

Speaker, I submit that the current matter in question is in the "*realm of technical*", because if I had stated "*this funding opportunity has been cut*", I would suspect that your time in considering this matter would not be required. I further draw your attention to past Speaker's rulings where they are loathed "*to send to the Ethics Committee matters that involve arguments over the characterisation of a policy*".

I submit that the matter before you is also an argument of the characterisation of a policy. However, at the end of the day MND Queensland are \$600,000 worse off, because the then LNP Opposition made a conscious decision not to match the funding commitment, and as such, upon the change of government, that funding opportunity was cut.

As such Speaker, I submit that this matter does not warrant the further attention of the Ethics Committee because it is technical and trivial in nature.

I thank you for the opportunity to respond to this matter.

If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M Nightingale', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

**MARGIE NIGHTINGALE MP
STATE MEMBER FOR INALA
DEPUTY OPPOSITION WHIP**



Your Ref:

Our Ref: 250331-OUT-Inala

31 March 2025

Mrs Margie Nightingale MP
Member for Inala
PO Box 75
Inala Qld 4077

By E-mail: Inala@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Margie

I write further to my correspondence of 20 February 2025 regarding allegations by the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services that you deliberately misled the House.

Deliberately misleading the House is listed as an example of behaviour that the House may treat as a contempt (see *Standing Order 266 (2)*).

I note your response of 13 March 2025. I am unconvinced by the reasoning and material provided.

It is my view that the matter is important, and a retraction and apology is required. This retraction and apology should occur in preliminary business during either Matters of Privilege or Personal Explanations during preliminary business, no later than Thursday 3 April 2025.

If a retraction and apology is not proffered, then I will proceed on the basis of there being no adequate apology in accordance with *SO 269(4)*.

In the meantime, should your office have any queries relating to this matter, they may be directed to my Executive Officer, Coral-Leah Kemp, by email to Speaker@parliament.qld.gov.au or on 07 3553 6700.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Pat Weir'.

HON PAT WEIR MP
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly

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