

Queensland Parliament Hansard Green

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SUBJECT: Queensland Health, Consultants and Contractors

MEMBER: Mr LANGBROEK

### Queensland Health, Consultants and Contractors



**Mr LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (10.17 am): Yesterday the Minister for Health waxed lyrical about a cut in consultancies in his department of 90 per cent from \$6 million to \$600,000. As usual, it is important to look at the detail behind his carefully chosen, cherry-picked statistics. Let us go on a journey through time—a time when the minister had not been teleported to another seat in another city. Imagine that when he was the member for Greenslopes in the 53rd Parliament.

On 1 February 2015 he must have woken up and pulled the curtains aside and said, 'We're not in Kansas anymore are we? Where are we?' The family must have said, 'Where are we?' He finally said, 'We are in a place called Woodridge. Woodridge is where we are now.' He actually is where he actually always was residing. The important point is that he is now the member for Woodridge and he was a senior minister in the Bligh government.

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Let us have a look at what the consultancies in Health were then. A little birdie has told me that consultancy expenditure in 2011-12 was \$26.77 million compared to \$19.84 million in 2010-11 which was an increase of 35 per cent—all while the minister was a minister in the Bligh government, admittedly, as attorney-general and then, having overseen the disaster in SPER, he was moved to education and training. When are consultants employed? They are employed following a review of the availability of suitable internal staff and where it is considered to be cost-effective. He was adamant that consultancies are needed when there are fewer staff.

In that government—he does not want to listen to it, Mr Speaker, does he? Come on, Cammy—'Look at moiye, look at moiye!' How does he explain the \$57.8 million in consultancies during the time of the Bligh government, of which he was a member of the cabinet, when the workforce was the biggest in the Public Service? There was one consultancy alone that cost \$16.6 million. Who can forget the Tahitian prince? That was all done while he was a minister in the Bligh government in the 53rd Parliament.

From July 2010 to May 2012, Queensland Health had 241 consultancies with the agreed value of \$57.8 million. I do not have time to go through the detail but, as usual, you cannot believe anything this minister says about what they are doing in Health. We have bed blocking back. We have ramping. We had people under the Bligh government who were on the specialist waiting list on the Gold Coast who were marked 'never to be seen'. That is what happens under Labor in Health.