



Speech By
Mark Robinson

MEMBER FOR CLEVELAND

Record of Proceedings, 8 August 2017

**APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL; APPROPRIATION BILL:
HEALTH, COMMUNITIES, DISABILITY SERVICES AND DOMESTIC AND
FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION COMMITTEE**

 **Dr ROBINSON** (Cleveland—LNP) (10.27 pm): I rise to speak to the budget estimates of the Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee. The committee's areas of responsibility are Health; Ambulance Services; Communities, Women and Youth; Child Safety; Multicultural Affairs; Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence; Disability Services; and Seniors. The committee also has a monitoring and oversight function in relation to the Health Ombudsman. The Palaszczuk Labor government's third budget fails to address the needs for infrastructure and services in the Cleveland district, as it does for the whole of Queensland. It promises thousands of jobs that will never happen, just like the Broadwater Spit development that Labor said would generate thousands of jobs. That was just another hollow Labor promise.

In terms of Health and Ambulance Services, with a budget of \$16.5 billion the time available to scrutinise the Health budget was limited. However, it was embarrassing to watch the health minister try to defend this budget. He proclaimed his confidence in every word, line and page of the service delivery statement, only to find out that at least three whole pages that he vouched for were proven to be wrong.

A government member: Photocopied wrong, mate.

Dr ROBINSON: Three whole pages, that he said were right, were wrong. In true Labor fashion, the minister sought to blame Treasury officials and others for the bungle, despite signing off on it himself. He was so out of touch that for five weeks those gross errors remained uncorrected on the parliamentary record. Evidence produced showed that Labor's disastrous nurse payroll fiasco continues to hurt current and former nurses who are being chased for overpayments. The bungles continue in the form of incidents of wrong blood in tubes for the previous period. The minister's lack of transparency around these figures is typical of the approach of this government to redact and hide bad news. Ambulance ramping is back under Labor in almost every HHS area and there seems to be no will or plan to address the problem. This is certainly the case at Redland Hospital in the Cleveland district. Our residents deserve better.

I was shocked to learn that after three budget years, no plan for local solutions exists to deal with the intensive care patients at Redland Hospital. When Labor first came to government in early 2015 they knew that an intensive care unit needed to be built at Redland Hospital as thousands of local patients were having to be redirected to other hospitals, delaying the time it takes to fully treat them and potentially placing lives at risk. They knew that in early 2015.

Under questioning the minister admitted that three years on still no plan even exists to address the intensive care issues at the Redland Hospital. This is an unacceptably low standard of health that should not be tolerated by local Redlands people. Anecdotal evidence also exists that emergency department times are blowing out since Labor came into government. The LNP finished construction of

the new emergency department. Unfortunately, we found that there was no funding for capital expenditure, no funding for staffing. We could open a new emergency department, but not operate—how ludicrous. We had to find additional funding—

Mr Rickuss interjected.

Dr ROBINSON: Like *Yes Minister*. I take that interjection. I will continue to fight for our fair share of health funding for Redland City residents, having been sold out by Labor.

I turn to the portfolios of Communities, Women and Youth; Child Safety; and Multicultural Affairs. With respect to the serious issue of child protection and the gross failures of this government, it was disappointing that the minister focused her time on five years ago rather than the current crisis in child safety. Estimates questioning highlighted serious concerns about the level of funding to domestic violence support in some areas.

In terms of the Disability Services and Seniors portfolios, poor record keeping by Disability Services Queensland was raised after client files were rejected by the NDIA. Unfortunately, questions were not answered about the operation of the Forensic Disability Service in Wacol. There are still over 18,000 people living with a disability on the register of need. This government does not seem to have a plan to support them whilst they wait for the NDIS rollout. Labor's third and thankfully final budget of this parliamentary term fails.

(Time expired)