



Speech by

**PHIL REEVES**

**MEMBER FOR MANSFIELD**

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Hansard 16 September 1999

### 1999 STATE BUDGET

**Mr REEVES** (Mansfield—ALP) (1.09 a.m.): I have much pleasure in rising in support of the Budget, which is a great Budget for Queensland and, in particular, for the people of my electorate of Mansfield. Before discussing the benefits of the Budget, I wish to congratulate the Premier, the member for Ipswich and other members of the CBRC team, particularly the Deputy Premier. I make special mention of the Minister for Local Government, the member for Chatsworth, for his outstanding efforts in the four months that were spent working on the Budget process.

I wish to take the time allotted to me to inform the House of the benefits that will flow from the Budget to the people of the electorate that I am privileged to represent. Obviously a number of the benefits contained in the Budget will also assist the electorate of Chatsworth.

Over \$140m is to be spent on capital works on Brisbane's south side. This is made up of \$95m for the ongoing redevelopment of the Princess Alexandra Hospital, \$20.5m for the Mater Hospital at South Brisbane, and \$26.7m for the Logan Hospital. As a person who had the pleasure of attending the Princess Alexandra Hospital for two overnight stays, I saw at first hand why the redevelopment is badly needed. While the staff were first-class, unfortunately I cannot say the same about the facilities. The staff, especially in the neurosurgery ward that I was in, are looking forward to having a first-class hospital so that they can provide the quality of care that they wish to provide.

It is probably appropriate to make special mention of redevelopment of the Mater Children's Hospital. Like many in this House, I was born at the Mater Hospital. In fact, in two days time it will be 33 years ago. The Mater Children's Hospital is probably the most important health asset on the whole south side of Brisbane. Without disregarding other age groups, providing quality health care for our very young is one of the most important roles that the health professions have. That is why it is great to see that this Government is allocating \$20.5m to redevelop the Mater Children's Hospital to enable quality and effective health services to be performed. While the Health budget will have a major bearing on the delivery of the most important services, the record budget of \$3.45 billion for recurrent funding will enable the delivery of vital health services to the people of Mansfield.

Some of the Health programs that I wish to emphasise include the introduction of a Positive Parenting program at the Child Health Centre at the Palmdale Shopping Centre in my electorate. Every parent in the electorate that I represent will benefit from the Positive Parenting program. Better parenting skills can lead to less stress in the home and reduce marital conflict. Research shows that behavioural problems in children can contribute to crime in later life. The program aims to give parents the tools they need to help overcome problems before they take root. This Budget item will produce real results at the grassroots level. It will have a greater effect on the quality of life of many in the electorate than most other initiatives. Once again, Labor is caring about real issues.

The enhancement of the Brisbane Youth Service, with the appointment of a specialist drug counsellor, will tackle the single most dramatic problem facing the community today. The increase in this service recognises that drug and alcohol abuse could have a devastating impact on the health and wellbeing of individuals and their families. It is also a fact that drug and alcohol abuse contributes to a significant proportion of crime, violence and social disruption in our community. Once again, Labor is delivering on services that impact on real problems.

The \$13m boost to mental health services illustrates our commitment to ensuring that health services are provided close to where people live and will ensure that they will be used to expand community-based mental health services. It is a fact that one in five adults will experience some kind of mental health problem at some time in their lives. In Queensland we have a comparatively high rate of youth suicide. Initiatives such as the provision of additional funding of \$1m for non-Government community organisations and the development of suicide prevention materials are most welcome. Non-Government community organisations are now \$2m a year better off under a Labor Government. Once again, we have a Labor Government delivering on real issues that have a major impact on the quality of life of the people of my electorate.

An additional \$12m will be injected into the Queensland Home and Community Care program, which will give more Queenslanders access to a range of community nursing and allied health and respite care services. This extra money will help to meet the increasing demand on the program, which provides care, support and services to frail, elderly people and people with a disability and their carers. Programs such as the Mount Gravatt Meals on Wheel and the HACC program based at the Mount Gravatt Community Centre are prime examples of community services that positively provide support to those who simply need a hand. I have seen at first hand the effect on the quality of life of those who use these services in my electorate. That is why I am proud that a Labor Government is providing a boost for HACC. Once again, Labor is delivering a service that produces real results for our local people.

I turn now to the area of training. Some \$7.6m is being spent on improving southside TAFE colleges. These colleges provide vital training to both young and not-so-young people of the electorate of Mansfield. A sum of \$3.5m is provided to the Moreton Bayside College. I might add that that college has produced, and still produces, some high quality graduates. A sum of \$1m has been provided to South Bank TAFE, \$1.9m to Yeronga TAFE and \$1m to the Queensland College of Arts. Once again, we have a Labor Government that is spending money that will improve the delivery of services in a most important area—the training of our population. That is real delivery, creating real results.

I turn now to the area of public housing. The people of Queensland fully realise that only a Labor Government actually cares about affordable and available housing. Once again, that view has been proven to be correct. In the Brisbane southside area, 24 new homes, 65 medium units and 19 senior units will be built this financial year. Above all else, we have a Minister who not only talks about his regard for the people who rent from the department but who matches his words with actions. Like me, the Minister knows that those who want to stereotype public housing tenants as second-class citizens are not only lacking in compassion but show complete ignorance. The Minister's granting of \$22m to improve the existing dwellings clearly shows that his words are matched by action.

I remember in the early days of this Government that the Minister made a statement that he was concerned that we reward our good tenants, particularly those who may have been renting for 40 years, by renovating their houses once they have passed away. New tenants get the benefit of the excellent tenant who had done everything right and who had cared for the property. The Minister questioned why we should not reward the long-term tenant by fixing up the sections of their homes or units that need it. I do not think anyone could argue with his belief. It is great that the Minister has been able to deliver that for those people. Once again, we have a Labor Government delivering real results that affect real people.

The Roma Street development, which will cost \$13.4m, will be something that all Queenslanders and, in particular, Brisbanites can be extremely proud of. Above all, we will have a first-class place for recreation. Along with the entire city west precinct, we will have a leisure precinct that will be unmatched in any place in the world.

In the area of State Development, I am proud of the fact that the Brisbane Technology Park, which is located within the Mansfield electorate, is a major focus of our plans to ensure that Queensland becomes a Smart State. A sum of \$50,000 has been funded for the Queensland light metal industries, which is an initial amount of the \$10m promised by our Government. The Brisbane Technology Park will finally receive \$1m to ensure the roll-out of the fibre optic cable.

Of all the Budget amounts that will have a major impact on improving the services to the electorate of Mansfield, one of the most important will be the provision of a further \$180m for the South East Transit Project busway. As I have previously mentioned in this place, the busway will revolutionise public transport usage for the people of the Mansfield electorate.

Like many other people within my electorate, I went to the Gabba last Saturday night. On the way home, the talk was of the anticipation felt at the nearing of the completion of the Gabba redevelopment. I am proud that we have allocated \$38m to complete this plan. I cannot wait to see what it is like to be one of 40,000 people watching the Lions or the Bulls win next year, and the Olympic soccer games will be a highlight. If Saturday is any indication, in terms of atmosphere the Gabba will give Lang Park a run for its money.

Education is certainly the winner in this Budget, with 288 more teachers as part of the 3.7% boost in spending. The Government has extended the Building Better Schools system, with an allocation of \$50m. The Budget is great news for the people of Mansfield and, above all else, it follows our No. 1 commitment—jobs, jobs, jobs.

In conclusion, I wish to reflect on what Mansfield has achieved over the past 14 months. We gained real results in respect of the Mount Gravatt-Capalaba Road with the changing of the dangerous goods route. The Police Beat at Garden City had a major impact in terms of community policing. We have had extra-urgent maintenance at the Mansfield State High School, the Wishart State School and the Mansfield State School. There is also an after-school facility at the Mansfield State School. Also, \$160,000 to fund the completion of the Evans Deakin Hall at the Mount Gravatt Showgrounds was allocated by the Minister for Local Government. There has been extra funding for the painting of the Wishart State School, for shade structures at the Mansfield State High and for a school nurse at the Rochedale State High School. This Budget and what we have achieved in Mansfield shows the people of Mansfield and Queensland that Labor cares and that only Labor can produce real results.

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