



Speech by

Annastacia Palaszczuk

MEMBER FOR INALA

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CLEAN COAL TECHNOLOGY SPECIAL AGREEMENT BILL; APPROPRIATION BILLS

Ms PALASZCZUK (Inala—ALP) (12.34 pm): This year's budget is a budget for all Queenslanders. It is also a good budget for the residents of the Inala electorate. As Queensland is a growth state, so too is the electorate of Inala becoming a major gateway to the outer western suburbs of Springfield and Ripley Valley. Growth in this region will also bring with it more jobs. I welcome the Premier's news yesterday and the Treasurer's reinstatement of the fact today that unemployment in Queensland has reached a record low of 3.5 per cent. However, I am concerned that in some parts of my electorate youth unemployment is higher than the average. Over the coming years I will be focusing on this very issue, on trying to reduce the youth unemployment rates in my area and calling for more skills based training centres in Inala, linking in with the local business community, linking in with TAFE Queensland and linking in with Glenala State High School. I want every young adult living in my electorate to have a good opportunity of obtaining a job and a job locally if they so choose once they complete their education.

As reported last week in the *Courier-Mail*, Inala continues to be one of the top five growth suburbs in Brisbane. This is great news. A mix of public housing combined with private investment has contributed to this growth. Boasting in some areas magnificent city views ranging from Mount Coot-tha to the city skyline, Inala is a suburb that will continue to grow.

In relation to economic infrastructure, the Treasurer said that cars and trucks will be driving on the Boundary-Keliher roads underpass on the Centenary Highway this year. The state government has committed over \$30 million towards this upgrade and \$12.46 million this financial year to construct a two-lane underpass on Boundary Road. It is on track and due for opening in a few months time. I notice the minister for transport has just walked into the chamber and I look forward to him opening this project.

The other commitments in this budget include \$57.3 million to complete the concept planning of the upgrade of the Centenary Highway between Springfield and the Ipswich Motorway. In addition, parts of the Western Corridor Recycled Water Project—the key to our water grid—will be going through parts of my electorate.

We cannot have economic infrastructure without social infrastructure in our community. I will now address social infrastructure in my electorate. This budget provides \$479 million in capital funding for housing. The Commonwealth has failed to continue providing necessary funds for the construction of public housing and has redirected its funds to rental assistance.

Ms Jones interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I take the member for Ashgrove's interjection: it is shameful. Housing is a very important issue in Inala and parts of Carole Park. Part of this new funding will be invested in Inala to provide much-needed housing to reduce public housing waitlists. Over \$2 million will be spent this year on housing in the electorate. This will comprise \$580,000 to commence construction of six public housing apartment units for low-income earners at a total cost of \$1.88 million and \$212,000 to complete

construction of public housing in Inala for severely injured persons as part of the spinal injury initiative to house severely injured persons at a total cost of \$446,000.

In addition, this budget will see the continuation of the very successful Community Renewal Program that has changed Inala and is now being extended to Carole Park. Some \$2.95 million will continue the second phase of the Community Renewal Program in the Brisbane south-west zone.

I am pleased to report that \$300,000 from community renewal was released from last year's funding to create the Inala-Carole Park domestic violence service. This is a much-needed service and will benefit women and children in my local area. This new service will operate two days a week out of the HUB centre in Inala and three days a week out of Elorac Place based at Carole Park. I have been a strong advocate for this service, and this vital service is supported by locals, Legal Aid, community organisations and, very importantly, the local police.

I am proud that for the first time the budget for Disability Services Queensland for 2007-08 has reached \$1 billion. At the QCOS breakfast on Thursday morning, the Treasurer announced that a \$237 million injection of new money is allocated for disability services in Queensland. This represents a 220 per cent increase in disability funding since the Beattie government first came to office.

I would like to contrast the Queensland government's commitment to that of the Commonwealth government. The federal minister, Mal Brough, who is from Queensland, stated that the federal budget 'contains further new measures worth \$128.2 million for the next four years'.

Mrs Sullivan: Typical of conservative politics: too little too late.

Ms PALASZCZUK: It is too little too late. When we contrast this with the Queensland government commitment of \$237 million of new money—almost twice as much—we begin to understand the priorities of this government as opposed to those of the federal government.

Mrs Sullivan: Kevin Rudd will stick up for all Queenslanders.

Ms PALASZCZUK: That is right. Mal Brough should hang his head in shame. Recently, the Premier announced the Queensland government response to the Carter report. This year's budget will fund a total of \$113 million towards an innovative and comprehensive package of reforms to improve the lives of people with a disability who exhibit severely challenging behaviour which makes them a danger to themselves and their families and carers. I would like to briefly read from the Carter report where he explains challenging behaviour on page 8. He states—

Challenging behaviour which is exhibited not only by persons with intellectual disability but also by those with mental illness and in some cases with physical disability not only may put at the risk of injury the particular person and others but also it potentially deprives the person of access to the community and in some cases denies that person the opportunity to engage in the normal affairs of community living. It is therefore a matter of considerable significance. It needs to be addressed in a way which enhances the prospects of the person's personal development and enhances that individual's opportunity to establish a quality of life. Services and service delivery should be designed and implemented to achieve that objective.

In an attempt to address the housing arrangements, Bill Carter QC highlighted that accommodation should be built out at Wacol due to the close proximity of the park to any assistance with mental health issues and to DSQ therapy staff. The government accepted this recommendation and housing will be built in my electorate at Wacol. A sum of \$5.83 million has been earmarked to deliver accommodation and \$2.94 million is allocated to provide purpose designed housing for people with a disability in Inala as part of an ongoing commitment.

I would like to take this opportunity to commend the Premier, the Treasurer and the minister for communities for implementing this very comprehensive report. It makes me proud to be part of a Labor government that confronts complex legal and social issues head-on and finds a solution. I would also like to congratulate the Hon. William Carter QC for his handling of this matter and I congratulate the many families who shared their stories with him as part of this report.

The other part of the Carter report touched on the creation of a Centre of Excellence. I would like to briefly outline the role of this centre. It will: advise on, develop and ensure the maintenance across Queensland of consistent and best practice service options for all persons with an intellectual disability and challenging behaviour which expressly apply the human rights and service delivery principles expressed in the Disability Services Act 2006; facilitate the establishment, maintenance and ongoing review of a system of positive behaviour support for persons with intellectual disability and challenging behaviour, which is based on comprehensive assessment and targeted individualised intervention in the community and the plan management and coordination of those services; and continually monitor and review the quality of service delivery across Queensland to persons with an intellectual disability and challenging behaviour.

I notice that the minister for communities and disability services is in the House. I pay tribute to him for all the work he has done to improve the lives of people with a disability in this state.

Several people living in my electorate have been the victims of historical abuse. They have fought hard over the years to put their lives back on track. Over the years I have met with many of these people and listened to their stories. I cannot make a speech in this House without commenting on the \$100 million

redress scheme for children abused in Queensland institutions that the Treasurer and the minister for communities have made available. There will be \$100 million made available for distribution by way of ex gratia payments to eligible former child residents of Queensland institutions and detention centres. As the Treasurer said in her media release on 31 May, 'Our hope is that the redress scheme will offer some support and assistance and will help bring some closure to individuals and families.' Their voices have been heard and the government has delivered. The past cannot be forgotten but an opportunity now exists for them to move forward with their lives.

This budget provides a great resource to the teachers in our state schools. This resource—laptop computers—will not only be a valuable educational tool but will also enable teachers to network with other teachers worldwide. This year's budget has committed \$500 million to build and upgrade schools and training facilities across the state. The electorate of Inala will benefit from \$113,000 for improvements to our local schools, including Glenala State High School, Durack State School, Camira State School, Richlands East State School, Richlands State School, Inala West State School and Carole Park State School. This funding clearly demonstrates the Beattie government's commitment to our local schools in the area.

The community groups in my electorate are outstanding.

Ms Jones interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: That is right. The member for Ashgrove's father works in the electorate of Inala and he does a wonderful job at the Inala family and youth accommodation service.

The Inala PCYC provides programs and sporting opportunities to the youth in Inala and surrounding suburbs. I would like to publicly thank Sergeant Raymond Murray and his committee for the outstanding work they have done in growing the organisation. As part of this year's budget, \$32,000 is allocated to the PCYC to deliver a program to develop and maintain healthy and active lifestyles in primary school aged children. A total of \$922,000 has been allocated for family support programs to improve the safety and wellbeing of vulnerable children and their families.

Inala Community House provides a range of community services to families in my electorate. This year we will continue therapy support for families with a commitment of \$458,000 for counselling, youth worker support and social and recreational activities.

The government has also enhanced mental health services across the state. I am proud to report that \$861,000 will be allocated for refurbishment of the The Park Centre for Mental Health, including the upgrade of Anderson House and Fleming House at a total cost of \$2 million at Wacol.

In conclusion, the residents in the Inala electorate will indeed benefit from the government's budget. It provides funding for the necessary infrastructure to cater for the growth in the region over the coming years and it caters for the community infrastructure which is needed to help those in need. I congratulate the Treasurer who has delivered a true Labor budget—one which history will reflect upon as being innovative, inspirational and in accordance with our needs. I commend the bill to the House.