



Speech by


## Annastacia Palaszczuk

MEMBER FOR INALA

Hansard Tuesday, 27 November 2012

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### MOTION: PUBLIC SERVICE, JOBS

 **Ms PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Leader of the Opposition) (6.22 pm): I rise to speak in support of the opposition's motion tonight and to reject outright the amendment that has been moved by the Treasurer. I cannot quite believe what I am hearing in this House. First of all, we had the member for Noosa say that tonight the opposition has moved a stupid motion. I am sorry to say this to the member for Noosa, but the last time I looked people's jobs were fundamentally important, and the cornerstone of this Treasurer's budget is 14,000 jobs going. Then we had the extraordinary claims in this House by not only the member for Broadwater but now the member for Coomera that the role of government is not to create jobs. I am almost speechless by what those members said. It has always been Queensland Labor that stands up for jobs in this state. It has always been Queensland Labor that has been focused on creating jobs in this state. During the last term of the Labor government, we created over 90,000 jobs. That is what government is about: creating jobs.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Madam SPEAKER:** Order! There are too many interjections across the chamber.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** There were projects such as improving our health services. In relation to the Southport hospital, over \$1 billion was spent creating jobs. The extension of the Darra to Richlands line and to Springfield Railway Station—what was that about? Creating jobs! We had the expansion of the Cairns Hospital and the Mackay hospital. What was that about? Creating jobs! We had the Gold Coast Rapid Transit project. What was that about? Creating jobs! That is what government is all about: creating jobs, not ripping apart jobs, not impacting on people.

**Mr Minnikin** interjected.

**Madam SPEAKER:** Order! I warn the member for Chatsworth under standing order 253A and I will start warning other members around the chamber. The noise levels are getting up. There are too many interjections.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** As we head towards Christmas and the end of 2012 and the beginning of the new year, it is time to reflect on the past 12 months and it is a time to look to the future. That is what many thousands of Queenslanders will be doing this week, but a large proportion of them will be looking back on 2012 with a deep sense of regret and towards 2013 with an even deeper sense of regret. In particular, those thousands will be wondering how they will help their children celebrate Christmas, how they will face what will be a bleak holiday period, how they will put their kids through school next year, how they will provide for their families and how they will pay the rent or the mortgage. We know that the LNP went to the last election talking about lowering the cost of living. How can people pay their bills if they simply do not have a job? These are the thousands who have been cruelly and thoughtlessly axed by this callous government in its wholesale slashing of the public sector, in its full scale assault on front-line services and on community groups and in its campaign of fear against some of our most vulnerable Queenslanders, not the least those elderly residents who face an uncertain future as this government plans to close nursing homes.

Today, we heard from the Premier that the LNP members have already enjoyed their Christmas celebration with a jovial cruise down the Brisbane River. I do not believe it was *the Love Boat* and it certainly was not Clive Palmer's planned *Titanic*. I question how many of those opposite who went on this cruise took a moment while on the river to spare a thought for all of those families—

**Mr Cripps** interjected.

**Madam SPEAKER:** Order! I now warn the Minister for Natural Resources and Mines under standing order 253A and ask for members to cease their interjections across the chamber.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I ask that all members here spare a thought for those families who this Christmas will not have the capacity to enjoy such luxuries owing to the cost cutting that this government has embarked on. I question how many of those opposite are willing to take some responsibility for the thousands of families who have been left distraught and worried about their futures by this spiteful and merciless sacking program.

The members opposite may sit and laugh and they may be dismissive, but they should go back to their electorates and listen, because the message is loud and clear. The member for Yeerongpilly is prepared to stand up and say it publicly. The member for Condamine has already left the boat cruise and has joined the Katter party. There is nothing more important to a family than a job. This motion reflects that the opposition believes that jobs are fundamentally important, that governments are elected to create jobs and not sack people as this government has. I commend the motion to the House.

*(Time expired)*