


Speech by

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MEMBER FOR INALA

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NEWMAN GOVERNMENT, PERFORMANCE

 **Ms PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Leader of the Opposition) (2.30 pm): As we prepare to leave this House for the last time this year I think it is valuable to reflect on the year that was, a year that will go down in history as one of the state's most disastrous for ordinary Queenslanders and their families. The Premier and his ministers can talk all they like about their apparent efforts to lower the cost of living and make things easier for families. But what they are blindly denying is one key honest fact: that 2012 was the year that a new government came to power by making outlandish promises with regard to job security and then promptly set about coldly, clinically and methodically taking away those jobs. As those opposite leave this place tonight to enjoy their Christmas break, I would ask them to take a moment to truly reflect on the consequences of their actions for more than 14,000 former public sector workers, their husbands, their wives, their partners, their children and their extended families. I trust that those opposite, in reflection, may also come to realise what a miserable Christmas and holiday period it will be for some of those families. I trust they come to understand that those families will not be enjoying vacations. In fact, they will probably be pounding the pavement searching for the most fundamental of basic human rights, a job. They will be hoping they can hold their heads high once again and look their children in the eye. They will be hoping to rebuild their lives.

I am going to put what hundreds of thousands of Queenslanders are feeling right now in the simplest possible terms. The government has betrayed Queenslanders and brought the entire parliamentary process into disrepute. Queenslanders thought they voted for good government. What they get in return is a government lurching from crisis to crisis and providing the state with a daily dose of its soap opera. It is a government that sees numbers on a page as it axes its way through the state's workforce refusing to see the human toll behind those numbers. It is a government that has revealed its true colours this week. It is a government that is more focused on petty squabbling, infighting and backstabbing than on providing good, stable government for this state.

We await what will come in 2013. I know that all Queenslanders will be watching very, very closely.