


Speech by
Jackie Trad

MEMBER FOR SOUTH BRISBANE

Hansard Tuesday, 10 July 2012

WEST END STATE SCHOOL FIESTA; PUBLIC SERVICE, JOBS

 **Ms TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (9.53 pm): On Sunday, 3 June the South Brisbane community celebrated the annual West End State School Fiesta. The fiesta is a local icon, with free live bands, heaps of rides, fabulous multicultural food and a great community spirit—all with the objective of raising funds for the local school community. Thousands of local families, both past and present, turned up to show their support for the community. I put on record my thanks to the hundreds of volunteers from the West End State School who made fiesta happen, particularly longstanding P&C president Marilyn Trad and the principal, Judy Thompson.

The only thing different at this year's fiesta was the many families who stopped me to share their concerns about cuts to the Public Service—concerns about their jobs. The South Brisbane electorate has a high proportion of public servants, and there is no doubt that recent job losses will have a significant impact on our local economy. Mums and dads at fiesta were sharing an all-too-familiar story. For years they proudly worked in the Public Service and suddenly this year, with the election of this LNP government, their jobs have gone. The bloke with the brown box had turned up and turfed them out.

The Newman government has no respect for hardworking public servants and instead denigrates them and their work using language like 'bloated' and telling them that the only real jobs are in the private sector—this coming from people getting paid from the public purse themselves. Highly ironic! Many of the public servants who have lost their jobs have families—families who are now struggling to pay their mortgage and utility bills, families who have decided not to go on Christmas holidays in 2012 or undertake necessary renovations to their house.

Last week in talking to local retailers the constant feedback I got was that sales are down, retail activity is down, people are spending less and they are shopping less often. It is clear that those opposite do not understand that when people lose their jobs it has a flow-through effect, not only on their families but also on their communities and on the retailers who support them in these local communities. It is time that those opposite acknowledged the true impact of their job cuts and told Queenslanders how many more families will be facing the stark reality of unemployment thanks to their heartless decisions.