




Speech By  
**Annastacia Palaszczuk**

**MEMBER FOR INALA**

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**MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST**

**Newman Government, Performance**

 **Ms PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Leader of the Opposition) (11.01 am): I am pleased to report to the House that this morning I joined with Prime Minister Kevin Rudd at a rally outside Nyanda State School where the Prime Minister was talking passionately about education. He was talking passionately about the future of education for students not just across this state but across Australia. This is in stark contrast to those opposite. This is in stark contrast to what this Newman government wants to do to schools across Queensland.

Now we hear that the minister is looking at the consultation results for those planned school closures but the decision has been deferred. I wonder whether the decision on the closure of those schools has been deferred until after the federal election. I will leave it to members opposite to decide whether or not that is the case. Today we heard the Minister for Education talk about the past. I am very pleased to table a list of all the schools that were opened under a Labor government.

*Tabled paper:* List of schools opened covering the period 1998 to 2012 [\[3243\]](#).

I had to sit here during question time and listen to how the Newman government is clearly living in the past. They were talking about the Beattie government record when Peter Beattie was Premier from 1998 to 2007.

What I essentially want to talk about today is not the legacy of the past and not back to the future—as this government wants to—but the legacy of this government. Let us talk about the cuts, the closures and the impact—

**Mr Choat** interjected.

**Ms Trad** interjected.

**Madam SPEAKER:** Order! I am going to warn the member for Ipswich West and the member for South Brisbane. I call the Leader of the Opposition.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Let us talk about the biggest cut of all—up to 17,000 jobs across Queensland—and the impact that those job cuts have had on families right across the state. We had the Deputy Premier talk about the places he has travelled. We heard the Minister for Health talk about the legacy of the past.

I want to talk about what is happening right here and now in Queensland—the up to 17,000 jobs that have been cut and the impact on families. I especially want to talk about the cuts in the health sector—over 4½ thousand jobs gone. The impact is being felt regionally and right across the state. I want to talk about the impact on families that no longer have a breadwinner to pay their mortgages and the bills that families face every day.

As I move across the state this is what I see. We see the massive impact of health cuts in Townsville. We also see the prospect of the Stuart State School closing. In Cairns we see the massive impacts of the health closures there. We should not forget the taking away of seriously

needed health positions in our cape communities and the impact that will have on the delivery of essential services to Indigenous Australians in the cape.

Recently I was up in Mount Isa. Mount Isa is a city that has missed out completely on the Royalties for the Regions money. I hope that they are successful next time. I understand that they are putting in an application for the next round. Let us hope that they are successful then. This is one of the powerhouse centres—economic growth—

**Government members** interjected.

**Madam SPEAKER:** Order! Members!

**Mr Cripps** interjected.

**Madam SPEAKER:** Order! Minister, you are not paying attention to the chair. I warn the minister.

**Mr Grimwade** interjected.

**Madam SPEAKER:** Order! I now warn the member for Morayfield under 253A for not paying attention to the chair. I call the Leader of the Opposition.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I move to Toowoomba where we see the closure of the local prison and where three local schools are facing closure—Charlton, Toowoomba South and Wyreema. On the Gold Coast there have been cuts to public servants—our crucial workers who are needed across the state. There has been no help from the state government to tackle beach erosion. The ministers have their heads in the sand. They do not want to talk about fixing up the Gold Coast. There have been cuts to the V8 Supercars event.

There have been massive cuts across the Brisbane CBD. There have been cuts to the Biala sexual health clinic. How can a government sit by and see essential services across government cut.

**Ms Trad:** Because they don't care.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Absolutely. In Fortitude Valley we are facing the closure of the local state school. In Redcliffe we are seeing the closure of the pain clinic at the local hospital. In Sandgate we have seen residents thrown out of nursing homes. In Wynnum another nursing home was closed. That means more families and more residents facing turmoil. As I mentioned, in Salisbury there is the prospect of the Nyanda State High School being closed as well.

I am more than happy to talk about the Newman government's legacy.

**Mr Cripps:** It's about yours.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** No, I am not talking about the past. I am talking about the present. I am talking about what this government has done to Queenslanders across the state. Those opposite can live in the past. We are going to live in the present. As I travel across the state I am going to make sure that each and every day Queenslanders know about the impacts of your cuts to services and service delivery.

Let us go back to what was said before the election. Those opposite were going to enhance front-line services and said public servants had nothing to fear. This is a precursor to what Queenslanders can expect under a Tony Abbott-led government. This is the danger that not just Queenslanders face but all Australians will face. We have lived and breathed it every single day here. We have lived and breathed the lies and the deception of this government—say one thing and do another.

**Mr STEVENS:** I rise to a point of order, Madam Speaker. The member used unparliamentary language.

**Madam SPEAKER:** Leader of the Opposition, a similar point of order was taken earlier today with regard to unparliamentary language. I ask that you to withdraw.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I withdraw. Let us talk about the biggest legacy of this government—not just the job cuts but the promise to lower the cost of living. That is what they promised to do. They promised to lower the cost of living. But what did they end up doing? They increased electricity bills by 22.6 per cent.

Before closing, I cannot let the Tony Abbott paid parental leave scheme go without some checks and balances. We have to look at what we have heard very clearly from Tony Abbott in the last few days. Let us not forget the shadow Treasurer's dismal performance on ABC Radio when he was asked how it is going to be funded. He said, 'It could be 50 to 60 per cent funded by business or it could be 60 to 70 per cent funded by business. But don't ask me because I am in a car at the

moment and I don't have those details.' This is the man who wants to be Treasurer of Australia. This is the man who purports to know the economic facts and figures and wants to be the Treasurer of Australia. It is disgraceful.

Then we had Tony Abbott saying, 'Well, actually what's going to happen now is the states will fund it.' We have heard concerns from the other state premiers and former premiers very clearly—that it is an extravagance and how is it going to be funded. The Labor Party will always stand up for working women in this state. In fact, under a former Labor government we had more women in this House than ever before. You only have to look around here to see how few women are left in this House compared to how many were here under the Labor government. We will always support working women. We want working women out there in the community.

But Tony Abbott has failed to explain how this \$5.5 billion paid parental scheme is going to work. He said very clearly that the states will have to fund the rest of it. Today we have heard the Premier say there are going to be no extra funds needed from the state. If the Abbott government is going to increase the paid parental leave, that must come at a cost to the state. If that comes at a cost to the state, it is very clear that there will have to be further cuts to services across Queensland to pay for Tony Abbott's scheme. My question to the Premier is: what is going to be cut? These are legitimate questions and legitimate questions that Queenslanders deserve answers to.

They have seen what a Newman government has done. They have seen the impact that the cuts to jobs and services have had right across Queensland, and we cannot afford for this to happen again under a Tony Abbott-led government because what Campbell Newman and the LNP have done here in Queensland is nothing compared to what will happen under Tony Abbott. This is a Premier who fails to sign up to Gonski—cannot find the extra money for Gonski—and then says that a paid parental scheme is going to be cost neutral. Do not believe what they say. No-one can trust them.

*(Time expired)*