



Speech By
Hon. Anastacia Palaszcuk

MEMBER FOR INALA

Record of Proceedings, 18 March 2014

ADJOURNMENT

TJ Ryan Foundation



Hon. A PALASZCZUK (Inala—ALP) (Leader of the Opposition) (9.51 pm): Unlike those opposite, the Labor opposition is determined to get in place the best direction going forward for our state that involves closely listening to all Queenslanders. It also involves harnessing our best and brightest and hearing their input on how we can again make Queensland the best state in the country and how we can set about undoing the massive damage that the Newman government has done after just two years in power. That is why we have supported the establishment of the TJ Ryan Foundation, which is designed to stimulate debate on policy issues in Queensland. The launch of the TJ Ryan Foundation last month at the Queensland University of Technology attracted around 80 people and I am pleased to inform the House that board members include some of Queensland's most respected academics and experts in their fields. For example, they include the chair, Emeritus Professor Roger Scott from the School of History, Philosophy, Religion and Classics at UQ; and Emeritus Professor Paul Boreham, the former professor of political science and director of the Social Research Centre at UQ as the foundation's deputy chair.

These forums are a way to link people and their views covering the full political spectrum. I know that over the next few years there will be lots of lively debate because these academics have a keen interest in generating more debate among the public about the direction this Newman government is taking but also giving people the idea that they can engage in debate as well. However, up until now there has been, from my understanding, no progressive online forum focusing directly on Queensland policy. I am proud it took the labour movement to establish the first one here in Queensland.

Together these brilliant minds will focus on stimulating debate on such diverse topics as criminology, nursing, hospitals, public health, the Queensland economy, political behaviour, parliament, parties, elections and public sector accountability. They will have a particular focus on reviewing the policy directions of both current and former governments in relation to social, economic and cultural issues.

Those opposite who refuse to consult and who refuse to listen would do well to keep an eye on the work presented by the TJ Ryan Foundation in the future. These are the people who will lend a unique hand in guiding Queensland into the future.