




Speech By
Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk

MEMBER FOR INALA

Record of Proceedings, 20 May 2014

MOTION: UNEMPLOYMENT

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Leader of the Opposition) (6.06 pm): I rise to support the motion moved by the shadow Treasurer and completely reject the proposal put forward by the Treasurer and member for Clayfield. Let me make it very clear from the outset: in this state there is only one party that will stand up for workers' jobs and workers' rights, that is, the ALP. We need only look at what this government has done to curtail workers' rights and conditions in this state. First of all, it abolished the Labour Day public holiday. Secondly, it abolished Skilling Queenslanders for Work.

Government members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Dr Robinson): Order! Members will cease interjecting. The Leader of the Opposition has not taken interjections.

Ms PALASZCZUK: What did this government do? It axed up to 20,000 jobs across this state.

Opposition members: Shame!

Ms PALASZCZUK: Shame! That is the government's record when it comes to workers' rights and conditions. It has trampled with workers compensation. This government does not understand and now we see Tony Abbott repeating exactly what this government has done at a state level. Now Tony Abbott wants to throw the young unemployed on the scrap heap. He wants to leave them begging in the streets. I sat here and listened to the member for Ipswich, who does not deserve to be the member for Ipswich because he does not understand people and he does not understand the dignity of holding down a job. How dare he attack people in Inala and Durack! I will stand proudly in this House and talk very clearly and passionately about providing employment for the people in those areas.

When this government axed Skilling Queenslanders for Work, it axed a program that was giving people in my electorate an opportunity to gain a full-time job, as was happening right across the state. We had young people working in environmental programs. They were working in the RSPCA. Those were the sorts of programs that were giving them the confidence and dignity to apply for long-term jobs. What we have seen from the LNP is that it does not care about people. Fundamentally, it does not care about young people. Now Tony Abbott has shown very clearly that he does not care about young people at all, because he wants to throw them on the unemployment scrap heap and say to them, 'You beg for your entitlements, because the government is not going to help you and give you a helping hand'.

Mr Molhoek: That is the problem: it is all your entitlements that are bogging up the system, making it hard for business to create opportunities.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! The member for Southport will cease interjecting.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Nothing is more sacred than the dignity of being able to put food on the table, pay the mortgage and support a family.

Mr Molhoek interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! The member for Southport will cease interjecting or I will warn you.

Ms PALASZCZUK: For young Queenslanders nothing is more important than getting and keeping their first job and ensuring that they are building their own career. Jobs and the dignity of employment are critical to the very fabric of our society, but not to those opposite or to their counterparts in Canberra.

Nothing demonstrates that more than the simple fact that our unemployment rate in Queensland has now hit the truly appalling rate of 6.3 per cent—a level higher than at the time of the global financial crisis. What did our Premier say that he wanted to get our employment rate down to? Four per cent; we are nowhere near four per cent. That is another broken promise. All we get from this is government is broken promise after broken promise after broken promise.

Government members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Dr Robinson): Order! Members, the Leader of the Opposition has the call. Members will cease interjecting.

Ms PALASZCZUK: As the Deputy Leader of the Opposition said, Tony Abbott has the Campbell Newman playbook. He is copying it word for word—do a commission of audit, axe employment programs. This is exactly copybook Tony Abbott—increase taxes, lie to the electorate, tell the electorate one thing—

Mr Cox interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Member for Thuringowa, you have had your say. The Leader of the Opposition has the call.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Queenslanders will not forget what Tony Abbott is trying to do now, just as Queenslanders will not forget this LNP government when it comes to the next election. Let me make it very clear, the next election will be about jobs not asset sales. It will be about productive jobs not asset sales. The Labor Party will stand up for jobs. The Labor Party will stand up for the young people in this state. We will stand up for Queenslanders and young people in this state, not the LNP.