




Speech By
Hon. Tim Nicholls

MEMBER FOR CLAYFIELD

Record of Proceedings, 4 June 2014

MOTION: COST OF LIVING, SENIORS AND PENSIONERS

 **Hon. TJ NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade) (4.28 pm): One is astounded at the member for Nicklin. I do not think anyone even understood a word of what he said.

Mr Wellington interjected.

Madam SPEAKER: Order! I warn the member for Nicklin under 253A. The Treasurer has the call.

Mr NICHOLLS: There is nothing new in that. This is a government that is not afraid to stand up for Queensland's interests and we have done so repeatedly irrespective of the colour of the government in Canberra. Let me reinforce that there has been no cut by this government. This government has increased the concession payments by 10 per cent. We fully fund those concessions for which we are a hundred per cent responsible. The medical emergency electrical concession, the heating and cooling concession and other concessions are fully funded and will increase. However, there is a pool of money to which we contribute 85 per cent and the federal government contributes 15 per cent.

The reason they do that is because the federal government made a decision to increase the number of people who are eligible for the concession. We continue to fund that 85 per cent and in fact we increase it, but the federal government has removed their contribution. They have reduced that amount of money. Why have they done that?

I said yesterday in the budget speech that we understand what it is like to be left with a fiscal time bomb by an incompetent Labor government. When you look at what was left to those in Canberra, it was a fiscal time bomb. So if you want to go to the root cause of this problem, you need look no further than those opposite and their colleagues in Canberra, including the member for Redcliffe, who was part of it all. The reason that decisions like those made by the federal government even have to be considered is because Labor cannot manage the books. We disagree entirely with the decision made by the federal government in Canberra, and that is why this motion is so important and that is why we should support it. But when we look at the root cause behind it, there is only one party who is responsible for the cuts that pensioners will experience as a result of the federal government's decision, and that is the Labor Party because of their history of misspending and because of their inability to control things.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr NICHOLLS: I heard people talking about an advertising campaign. I heard the member for Redcliffe, who, it seems to me, would rather be back in Canberra than here in Brisbane with her mates. When it comes to advertising, let's have a look at what happened under Labor in their final term. The member for Redcliffe, previously the federal member for Petrie, breached her own government's rules on advertising for the mineral resources rent tax, the carbon tax, the pink batts scheme and, as the member for Aspley has said, disability care. What did those opposite do in the

last year of the Bligh government? In the last year of the Bligh government they spent in excess of \$30 million trying to hang onto office and in breach of their own rules. The motion should be supported. Labor cries crocodile tears.

(Time expired)