




Speech By  
**Yvette D'Ath**

**MEMBER FOR REDCLIFFE**

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Record of Proceedings, 6 May 2014

**MOTION: FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, BUDGET**

 **Ms D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (5.56 pm): I rise to speak in support of this motion, noting the Abbott Liberal-National government's consideration of breaking its election promises and considering massive cuts that will have significant ramifications across our communities. It is quite interesting to note that this motion calls on the Premier and the LNP government members to stand up for this state and stand up for their communities. Unfortunately, I have to say that I think that part of the motion is probably a waste of time with this government—

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Madam SPEAKER:** We will pause the clock. I realise, as I have said, that this is a robust debate, but that level of interjection means that the speaker cannot be heard by Hansard. I ask you to be mindful of that. I call the member for Redcliffe.

**Ms D'ATH:** The point I was making is that, unfortunately, I think the second part of this motion calling on the government to stand up for this state and for people across our communities is pointless because, from what we have just heard from the Treasurer, from what we have just heard from the member for Capalaba, and from what we are going to hear from every government member who will speak to this motion, they pride themselves on the cuts to funding and services that they have made in this state. They are proud of and stand by what Tony Abbott and Joe Hockey are about to do to Queenslanders. They actually use the words, 'Joe Hockey is going to come to the rescue.' They are supportive of any cuts that Tony Abbott is going to make. So they are going to go out into their communities next week after the federal budget and say, 'We think it's fantastic that they cut funding for pensioners.' 'We think it's fantastic that they want to cut the minimum wage.' 'We think it's wonderful that they want to take away youth programs and crime prevention programs, that they want to increase university fees.' They all think that this is wonderful.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Madam SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Order, members! I appreciate that those who are interjecting probably think that only their voice can be heard, but it is difficult to hear the speaker. I ask that the interjections, which are not being taken, to cease. I call the member for Redcliffe.

**Ms D'ATH:** It seems to be that every time I rise to speak in this chamber I get an extraordinary amount of screaming from the other side. Maybe it is because they do not like the fact that I am here, because by being here I am a constant reminder to them that people are fed up with the Newman government. They are sick of it. The government has stopped listening to the people and the people have stopped listening to it.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Madam SPEAKER:** Order, members! Before I call the member for Redcliffe, I remind the House that I have just provided guidance to you that, if that level of interjection occurs, we cannot hear the speaker. I also remind the speaker that the protocol and respect of how the House works is

that, where there is also a comment made that is provoking a response, it is also harder to protect the speaker. Members, I want to hear the person with the call. I call the member for Redcliffe.

**Ms D'ATH:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. I think it is important to refer to some of the key aspects that are under consideration by the Abbott government in this upcoming budget. The Abbott government has refused to commit to funding for kindergartens and preschools for next year, the \$470 million that is needed to keep those services going.

It is in this context that the state Minister for Education has been praising the boost in kindergarten services. I quote from a press release from the Minister for Education on 30 April where he states—

The latest figures show kindergarten participation has trebled in Queensland from just 29 per cent in 2008 to around 97 per cent in 2013.

This proves that the strategies we have put in place over the last few years to lift kindergarten attendance rates are working.

I am assuming that when the Minister for Education refers to 'we' he is using the royal 'we' because it was actually federal Labor working with state Labor that introduced early childhood funding to increase participation in kindergarten. So we are very supportive of this. We welcome the boost as well. I hope that in acknowledging this boost, in praising this boost in Queensland, the Minister for Education is going to stand up and argue with his counterpart in the federal government that there should not be any cuts in this area. Equally, I hope that the state education minister stands up and fights for our young people from low income households who want to go to university. If the federal minister for education goes down the path that he is proposing, which is deregulation of universities, what we will see is a reduction in funding for students and an increase in costs. Anyone who watched Q&A last night would have seen the federal minister making comments that because there are loans available it seems to be irrelevant that the fees might go up. Let us talk about the financial burden that hangs over the head of these students well into the future and the impact that has on their disposable income and their ability to have homes into the future.

The Abbott government is proposing real changes that will impact on Newstart. The proposal is that young people should not get Newstart until they are 25. Now we are expecting their parents to carry them, whether they live at home or not, and provide that extra financial support. There will also be an impact on childcare rebates. It is about time this state government stood up and fought for Queenslanders.

*(Time expired)*