




Speech By  
**Yvette D'Ath**

**MEMBER FOR REDCLIFFE**

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**MOTION: FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, BUDGET**

 **Mrs D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (6.16 pm): I have to say well done to the four speakers from the government side. They all managed to make a speech and not one of them mentioned the \$7 co-payment. So well done for managing to avoid what is such an important issue for the people in each of their communities: a \$7 GP tax that is seeking to be imposed by the Abbott government.

We heard the four government members talk about a whole range of issues—the cost of living, we heard the carbon tax mentioned over and over again and the fuel excise. I find it hilarious that the Treasurer would mention the fuel excise when the other day Joe Hockey made those offensive comments about the fuel excise really going to hurt only high-income people because low-income people either do not have cars or do not drive very far. That might explain what this GP fee is all about. Maybe Joe Hockey and the Abbott government think that the \$7 GP tax is going to hurt only high-income people? Maybe they think that low-income people cannot afford to go to the doctor already—‘They don’t go to the doctor, so this won’t hurt them, or when they go they don’t go and get their medicines because they can’t afford them.’ That is probably the mindset of the federal LNP.

It is appalling that the government members in this parliament would sit here and not condemn the Abbott government for the cuts that it is making in health, education and welfare payments because of the impact that it is going to have on Queenslanders right across this state. The government members love to brag about their statistics in Health. They love to talk about their surgical waiting lists. They love to talk about their dental waiting lists. Of course, they do not talk about the money that was put in by federal Labor to address those issues, such as the \$1.6 billion for the dental scheme. In fact, the only mention of dental waiting lists and the reduction of dental waiting lists in press releases issued by this state government is when it brags about how it got extra money from the federal government to achieve and exceed the Commonwealth’s performance targets. The government is acknowledging that it got money from the federal government.

Let us talk about statistics. Let us talk about the fact that, in February, the statistics for Redcliffe Hospital had the specialist outpatient waiting list at just over 7,000. Now there are 9,815 people waiting for their first appointment as a specialist outpatient just at Redcliffe Hospital. Of those, 8,227 are for surgical procedures. For orthopaedics, only 11 per cent of category 2 patients are being seen within the required time; for urology, 14 per cent of patients are being seen; for general surgery, 33 per cent of patients are being seen. But let us put aside the statistics and let us talk about real people in our community.

Let us talk about the kid who went to the emergency department with a broken arm, had an x-ray and was told it was just a sprain. He was sent home. He was at school all week, went to sport that weekend and took another fall. He went back to the emergency department and had X-rays taken again. The dad said, ‘Oh, it’s broken this time, isn’t it?’, only for the hospital to say that it was already broken but no-one had actually rung the parents during the week to say, ‘We’ve checked these X-rays

and your son's arm is broken and you need to come back in'. This kid played sport with a broken arm potentially ending up with more serious injuries because no-one bothered to let them know.

Or let us talk about the mum I met in Gladstone whose son also had a very serious break in his arm. He was admitted to hospital and put on an IV drip for pain relief. The hospital said he needed to be transported to Rockhampton Hospital. Did they put him in an ambulance and transport him up there? No. They told the parent to take him home and to drive him up to the hospital themselves the next day. The mum said, 'Well, hold on. He has been on an IV drip for pain relief. What am I supposed to do to provide relief for pain?' The response was, 'Give him some Panadol'.

Let us talk about real stories. Let us talk about those on the waiting list. Let us talk about the contract that this government made to reduce costs of living. Let us talk about the statement by the Premier that after two years there is no more blame game, his ministers will be held to account if they do not deliver. It is about time that government members stood up for people in Queensland, stood up for their communities and condemned the Abbott government for its cuts.