



Speech By  
**Ann Leahy**


**MEMBER FOR WARREGO**

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## **APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL; APPROPRIATION BILL**

### **Communities, Disability Services, Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee, Report**

 **Ms LEAHY** (Warrego—LNP) (10.14 pm): I rise to speak on report No. 3 of the Communities, Disability Services, Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee. I take this opportunity to acknowledge all members who participated in this estimates committee process. I would also like to acknowledge and thank the committee secretariat staff past and present for their help with this estimates committee process. This was my first estimates committee hearing, and I was pleased to participate as a member of the committee.

The committee's areas of responsibility are communities, women, youth, child safety, multicultural affairs, domestic and family violence prevention and disability services and seniors. It is difficult to single out any one particular sector of these portfolio areas as more important than the other; they are all important. They touch the lives of Queenslanders, sometimes on a daily basis. However, some portfolio areas like that of domestic violence, as we have seen in recent weeks, make the news for what can only be said are the wrong reasons and require great attention and further action.

There is no single solution to deal with the increase in domestic and family violence incidents in our communities. It will take a combination of solutions, strategies and some very hard work to turn the corner and reinforce that domestic and family violence is not acceptable in our communities. I am pleased and I am proud that the former LNP government started some of these processes with the *Not now, not ever* report.

I also move to the issue of drought that is affecting my entire electorate. There are drought declarations right across my electorate. I asked the minister in the estimates committee hearings about the funding that her portfolio extends to community support measures in drought declared areas. It would give some confidence to these drought stricken communities if the hardworking not-for-profit organisations had some indication from the state government as to who will be eligible for this funding, how and when it will be distributed and what type of support is envisaged to be funded. I am disappointed that the minister could only advise that these funds would be flowing soon. Drought waits for no-one, so not only are these drought-affected constituents and communities waiting for the heavens to open, but they are also waiting for George Street. At the rate the state government is going, the drought might break before George Street opens the purse strings.

I found the estimates committee process to be a highly interesting one, especially in relation to the Minister for Disability Services, Minister for Seniors and Minister Assisting the Premier on North Queensland. When the minister appeared before the estimates committee, she was not able to explain to the committee why her role as Minister Assisting the Premier on North Queensland was not

mentioned in the service delivery statement except for her ministerial title on page 1. It is disappointing that there are no service objectives, no service descriptions or service measures associated with the minister's responsibility as the Minister Assisting the Premier on North Queensland in the service delivery statement that the committee examined.