




Speech By
Hon. Anastacia Palaszcuk

MEMBER FOR INALA

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Budget

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (2.02 pm): Yesterday my government handed down its first budget. It is a budget for health, education, infrastructure and jobs for today and tomorrow; in other words, a true Labor government has delivered for all of Queensland a measured budget, a fair budget and a responsible budget. Importantly, it is a budget that delivers on my government's primary election commitment that our revenue-earning public Queensland assets will remain in public hands. I thank the Treasurer, the Under Treasurer and Treasury officials for their hard work in delivering my government's first state budget. What they have delivered through this hard work is a budget that restores the front-line services which were so near-sightedly axed by the former LNP government and which strengthens our economic position. It is a budget with an eye firmly and resolutely on the future.

Our government's first budget contains record health funding of \$14.2 billion which will deliver 400 more nurses, historic new nurse-to-patient ratios and places for 4,000 new nurse graduates. It delivers record education funding of \$12.4 billion, including almost \$250 million for 875 additional teachers. It delivers a \$10.1 billion infrastructure program, including a \$500 million statewide schools and hospitals fund. Education, health and building infrastructure are core to good Labor budgets, and in that regard we have delivered. These are the sorts of local hospital and school refurbishments that will help support local jobs in local regional communities. Additionally the budget contains \$200 million for Building Our Regions, \$100 million over five years for the Great Barrier Reef and \$34.5 million to rescue TAFE.

This budget reinstates the concessions that were so cruelly ripped away by the Abbott government, with \$347 million for Queensland pensioner and Seniors Card holder concessions. It delivers \$31.3 million to tackle domestic violence, which is one of the most important issues that Queensland faces today. Critically, our first budget builds for Queensland's future; specifically, the jobs that will shape Queensland's future. The budget reconfirms our election commitment to re-establish Skilling Queenslanders for Work with a \$240 million allocation, and of course it delivers our government's \$180 million Advance Queensland initiative which creates the critical jobs and industries of today and of the future which I talked about in some detail yesterday.

This is a budget that helps repair the hurt and the damage of the past three years, when the former LNP government was more intent on axing front-line services and jobs than it was focused on building a sustainable future for Queensland. This is a budget that makes Queenslanders, jobs and our state's future priorities. It is a budget that reflects the core Labor values of compassion, decency and the right to dignity in work. It is a budget that I am proud of, delivered by a government I am proud of.