




Speech By
Grace Grace

MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL

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APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL; APPROPRIATION BILL

Finance and Administration Committee, Report

 **Ms GRACE** (Brisbane Central—ALP) (3.44 pm): I rise to speak in support of report No. 11 of the Finance and Administration Committee. Although I am not part of the committee, it was great to observe the first one off the rank, so to speak, under the new government. I was impressed with what I believe was a fine example of people across their portfolios, particularly in relation to the Premier and the Treasurer. We have heard a lot today in relation to the amount of time we have to speak on this topic. There has been a lot of comment about the time frames and about the lack of time. All I have to say to those opposite is that one would not mind it so much if there were some quality questions, but from what I observed there was little quality in the questions in relation to the estimates that were before them. I found a lot of what I could only describe as cheap political pointscoreing.

Mr Crandon: You weren't there!

Ms GRACE: I saw it on the internet, in answer to the interjection from the member for Coomera. What I observed was a lot of cheap political pointscoreing. It was more about pointscoreing in a cheap political way than about the quality of the questions coming to both the Premier and the Treasurer in relation to the budget figures that they had before them. I say to those opposite: remember that quality is often more important than quantity. You know that you are in real trouble when, with all due respect to it, you have to come into this House and quote the *Courier-Mail* in relation to an issue. You do then know you are in quite a bit of trouble.

I want to highlight that what I observed in relation to these committees is job creation, which is the No. 1 priority of the Palaszczuk government. This is a jobs budget. That is the only way one can describe it. The highlights include \$1.6 billion for the Working Queensland program. I am proud to see that already over \$26 million has been awarded for projects commencing from September to a wide range of delivery locations across Queensland under the Skilling Queenslanders for Work. I have already had \$1.2 million awarded to projects in my electorate which will assist 460 people to obtain skills and find work. The \$180 million Advance Queensland fund is also geared towards creating jobs. Already the latest statistics from ABS data show that 28,500 jobs have been created by the Palaszczuk government since being elected.

I join with the member for Mansfield in recognising the importance of the arts. I love the arts. It is one of those defining moments in humanity. I welcome the \$173 million. I know that the Premier, as the Minister for the Arts, will certainly allocate that to the most appropriate projects to deliver the arts for all of Queensland. With those few words I thank everyone involved. It was a great estimates hearing.