



Speech By  
**Joseph Kelly**


**MEMBER FOR GREENSLOPES**

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**PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT**

**Federal Budget**

 **Mr KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (3.18 pm): Like many people in the electorate of Greenslopes I was nervous as I awaited the recent federal budget. We all saw the 'Hockey Horror Picture Show' that was the 2014 budget which seemed to reveal, onion-like, layer upon layer of unfairness. Given the damage done in 2014, many in my electorate wondered if this year's efforts would start to reverse the changes and the carnage. As one constituent put it to me, perhaps if the public outcry against the manic unfairness of last year's budget was not enough to shift the Treasurer, then perhaps the sharpening effect of an impending date with the electorate might cause him to inject some fairness back into the budget.

Alas, this is not the case, particularly in the area of Health and Education funding. Constituents repeatedly raise with me their concerns regarding the future of our public health system. Like me, they know that a functioning universal health system is a key part of our society and our economy. In fact, they know that a good education and access to a decent healthcare system will set most citizens up for a lifetime of contributing productively to their community. They also recognise that we must care for those in our society who, no matter for what reason, cannot care for themselves. I assure the House that there are many such people and I am glad that we have so many dedicated health workers who go above and beyond the call of duty to provide care to all Queenslanders.

This budget has done nothing to address the spectre of cuts that are heading our way: \$11.8 billion worth of cuts for our state. A sum of \$2.6 billion is to be ripped out of the hospital and health services that the constituents of my electorate rely on. Cuts to health care are not something that I speak of as a distant observer. I will leave to others the petty semantic arguments about front-line staff. I suggest that all health workers with whom I have worked found those arguments to be insulting and completely and utterly irrelevant.

No, I am not a dispassionate observer. I was there when those opposite took the hatchet to Queensland Health. I was there when beleaguered middle managers had to come around asking tired staff to do double shifts. I was there when my job became harder because my clinic facilitator, like every single other clinic facilitator at the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital, was made redundant. Like most people, I watched appalled as jobs were slashed with no thought for how the services they delivered would be delivered after the cuts. There was no management plan and no strategic thinking, just a kill sheet with a number on it.

The constituents of Greenslopes are very concerned about the federal government's cuts to health care and I am proud to be part of the Palaszczuk government that will be advocating strongly on their behalf for a properly funded universal healthcare system.