




Speech By
Joseph Kelly

MEMBER FOR GREENSLOPES

Record of Proceedings, 16 July 2015

APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL; APPROPRIATION BILL

 **Mr KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (2.59 pm): I am pleased to have the opportunity to rise to speak in support of what can only be described as a great Labor budget and what I consider to be a real win for the people of Greenslopes. The people of Greenslopes will welcome the first forecast surplus since 2006-07. This has not been achieved at the expense of the jobs of 24,000 public servants. This has not been achieved by flogging off assets. The Treasurer, a good friend and former member of the Greenslopes branch of the Labor Party, has demonstrated that there is a better way for Queensland. The Treasurer has demonstrated that the budget can be managed in a manner that grows the economy and jobs.

This budget not only delivers a surplus but also delivers on our measured election commitments, fully funded. A record investment in education and health will be welcomed by the people of Greenslopes. Our government will establish nurse-to-patient ratios—something which nurses have advocated for for decades, and this will save lives. My electorate, being close to major universities and teaching hospitals, is home to many nursing and midwifery students. They will be particularly pleased that we are using this budget to fund 4,000 new nurse graduates over the next four years.

The allocation of \$19.8 million to establish the Princess Alexandra Hospital as the first digital hospital in the state will continue Labor's long and proud commitment to investing in health care so that our professionals can continue to deliver cutting-edge, world-class care to our community. Those opposite want to talk loudly about waiting lists but they do not want to talk about the waiting list for the waiting list. We do not want to talk about it either; we want to do something about it. I know the people of Greenslopes will be thrilled that \$361.2 million is being allocated over four years to reduce the number of people waiting longer than the clinically recommended times.

The electorate of Greenslopes has many fantastic school communities that will be applauding the major investment in school maintenance. No doubt it will be pleased that Labor has honoured its commitment to invest in letting teachers teach. This means more teachers, more curriculum coordination time, more teacher release time and more specialist teachers in high schools. This will help the great school communities of Greenslopes become better.

Of course, education does not finish at our high school gate. Our government is committed to Rescuing TAFE. I applaud the measures in the budget that will help to maintain the valuable TAFE services in our community. Of the many cuts from the previous government, at a time of growing youth unemployment the all-out attack on TAFE was viewed by many people in my electorate as completely and utterly illogical. Our government will restore TAFE to its rightful place as the provider of vocational education and training—the provider that is focused on delivering education to our entire community.

Youth unemployment is sitting at 14 per cent in Greenslopes. That is why this budget's jobs plan Skilling Queenslanders for Work will be a welcome relief for many families in the electorate. The establishment of the independent statutory authority Jobs Queensland will ensure that we engage in proper long-term workforce planning.

I am pleased that we are focused on the welfare of those in our society who have made so many great contributions over so many years to building our community. Pensioners will welcome the \$347 million for Queensland pensioner and concession cardholders. As we have done so often in the past in the Labor Party, we will stand with the most vulnerable—\$31.3 million over four years will say to the people of Greenslopes that we as a government are serious when we say not now, not ever to domestic violence.

I stood in front of thousands of members of the Metropolitan Districts Netball Association as they cheered for the mighty Queensland Firebirds in my electorate, and they will cheer even louder when they hear of the new state netball centre—a centre that will help members of the MDNA become the Firebirds of the future.

There are so many people in the electorate who care deeply about our natural environment, and they will welcome our \$100 million funding to protect the Great Barrier Reef. I could continue ad infinitum about this budget. There is more funding for arts, police, ambulance officers, infrastructure, sporting facilities and a huge boost for tourism—all things that will be of great benefit to the people of Greenslopes. This is a great Labor budget. It is a budget that delivers a surplus, delivers our election commitments, protects the reef, invests in health and education, rescues TAFE, protects pensioners and puts some real funding into domestic violence prevention.

This budget could stand on these things alone, but I have saved the best for last: the Advance Queensland strategy. Like every member of the Palaszczuk government, I have jobs as my first priority. We are absolutely committed to creating the jobs for the future. The Greenslopes electorate is surrounded by fine teaching and research hospitals, both public and private. It is in close proximity to three great universities and is a short bus ride to great research institutes like the Queensland Institute of Medical Research, the Gallipoli Medical Research Foundation and Translational Research Institute. It is the place that many people who work and study in these fine institutions choose to live and raise a family. These people will particularly welcome the visionary Advance Queensland strategy and its \$180 million in funding.

The Best and Brightest Fund, the future jobs strategy and the business investment attraction package will enable our state to become a leader in research, development and commercialisation of the industries of the future—a future that is rushing upon us. This government has the vision to be ready for that future.

This is a budget that is a win for the people of Greenslopes but it is also a win for our entire state. The Premier and her team have laid out a fully funded plan for the creation of jobs now and jobs for the future. I commend these bills to the House.