




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR FERNY GROVE

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APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL; APPROPRIATION BILL

Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee, Report

 **Mr FURNER** (Ferry Grove—ALP) (4.48 pm): As the chair of the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee I rise today to speak in support of the Appropriation Bill. On behalf of the committee I would like to thank the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Minister for Training and Skills and also the Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services and Minister for Corrective Services and their department officers for their responses to the questions provided on the Appropriation Bill and the information to the committee throughout the estimates process.

I want to emphasise that point on questions. Given the estimates process that we were involved in, I feel sorry for some of those members opposite—the member for Beaudesert and the member for Mount Ommaney—who were limited in actually asking questions because most of the time was taken up by those shadow ministers opposite not necessarily asking questions but certainly making statements. With 120 days of estimates under my belt, I think I have a degree of experience of what really should happen at estimates—that is, that questions should be asked of the budget and not of spurious, scurrilous matters that have nothing to do with the budget. It was good occasionally to get some in but, nevertheless, if they come along one day I might teach them how estimates are run and I will give them some tips from the 120 days under my belt.

Let us look at some of the matters that were raised. In the Attorney's portfolio we heard of measures—we heard more earlier today—on streamlining domestic violence applications and court processes for victims and the police who deal with these crimes. The Attorney also explained how the Labor Palaszczuk government shall provide \$1.1 million additional funding in 2015-16 to expand the domestic violence duty lawyer service across the state through Legal Aid Queensland. We will see the development of a domestic and family violence prevention strategy and implementing justice related recommendations supported by the government in respect of the report from the task force on domestic and family violence in Queensland.

In the area of youth justice this government shall provide \$2.4 million—that is, \$23.6 million over four years—to reinstate court ordered youth justice conferencing and explore options for an enhanced model of youth justice conferencing based on contemporary evidence. The committee also heard of the review into the number and type of licences in safe-night precincts and other entertainment precincts, including risk based assessment processes and introducing legislation to provide for new alcohol service restrictions and trading hours conditions for licensed venues, making these areas safe for police and emergency service personnel and the public and to stop the flood of victims being treated in emergency hospital wards throughout the state resulting from serious assaults from alcohol violence.

Furthermore, the Attorney explained to the committee about the abuse of taxpayer funds in transporting the former attorney via helicopter to visit the Lincoln Springs boot camp. Actually, that was around the time of a Speaker in Canberra using similar activities of flying helicopters around and who

certainly took the lead on that particular point. The Attorney in her Training and Skills portfolio explained the investment of \$60 million as part of \$240 million over four years to reinstate the Skilling Queenslanders for Work initiative to support up to 32,000 Queenslanders back into work. Additionally, we heard about implementing actions and initiatives of the Queensland government's Rescuing TAFE policy, including investing \$6.63 million as part of \$34 million over three years to restore TAFE Queensland's status as Queensland premier provider of VET. On top of these initiatives we are investing \$40 million over four years to establish Jobs Queensland, an independent statutory entity providing advice to government on skills demand and long-term workplace planning.

I now turn briefly to the Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services and Minister for Corrective Services. The committee had it explained that total expenditure for police will be \$2.085 billion over 2015-16, representing around 977 new and replacement police vehicles and 266 new police officers. The police officers in my electorate of Ferny Grove are overwhelmed with these sorts of responses, and earlier today we heard about the fast-tracking of the body-worn cameras in parts of Logan and Springwood. It is important that this government has taken the initiative to deliver on its election commitments in its budget and delivered in the appropriate areas of need.