



Speech By  
**Nikki Boyd**


**MEMBER FOR PINE RIVERS**

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## **APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL; APPROPRIATION BILL**

### **Communities, Disability Services, Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee**

 **Miss BOYD** (Pine Rivers—ALP) (10.10 pm): I rise today to speak in support of the Communities, Disability Services, Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee's report No. 3, 2015-16 budget estimates. Labor has always had at the core of our values the drive to ensure that no-one gets left behind in our community. This Appropriation Bill goes to the heart of that. This Appropriation Bill protects the most vulnerable—often those who cannot protect themselves. It is about providing a safe environment, fairness, dignity and equality.

When it comes to child safety, this budget sees more than an eight per cent increase in the operating budget for Child and Family Services in 2015-16. In Moreton Bay we have recently seen the implementation of the Family and Child Connect service. This is only one of five new services with a \$4.5 million allocation. Family and Child Connect is aimed at early intervention in families before issues escalate. Under the previous government, community organisations had gag orders placed upon them. This had a serious impact on service delivery, since services could not be vocal about the challenges that they and their communities faced. We changed that. On this side we took the alternative view that our non-government organisations should be partners, not servants. The Palaszczuk government removed gag orders and the suppressive culture that comes from autocratic rule.

This Appropriation Bill sees an investment of \$2 million for the maintenance and upgrade of multipurpose and neighbourhood centres at a total cost of \$12.2 million over four years. In Pine Rivers we are fortunate that the previous Labor government saw fit to build a new neighbourhood community centre for our community. It is located right on the boundary with the member for Kallangur's electorate, and both of our communities benefit from this centre. Both the Premier and the Attorney-General have come and explored the centre and seen firsthand the great work that they do. What we have seen is that there is so much demand in our community that the centre is bursting at the seams. Although it is under five years old, the testament to its success is how often we are told about how expansion is necessary, and some service components are actually taking up residence at local shopfronts to be able to service the demands of our community. This is community in action and it reflects the government's partnerships—creating something useful for my community. I am proud to be part of a government that continues to invest in them.

I believe that everyone in this place knows what a scourge domestic and family violence is on our community. We have seen it far too often, particularly in the last week. Our government is one that will take decisive action on domestic and family violence. That is why we have committed to implementing the 140 *Not now, not ever* task force recommendations. That is why the Palaszczuk government is acting to implement more serious penalties for perpetrators and repeat offenders through legislation this week. We know there needs to be an holistic approach when tackling the issues of

domestic and family violence. We must make sure that there is support for those who escape domestic violence, but there also needs to be somewhere for victims to escape to. That means an investment in infrastructure as well. I am pleased that this budget allocates \$4 million to crisis shelters in Brisbane and Townsville for families escaping violence at a cost of \$8 million over two years. This will address the communities' needs and ensure there are mechanisms for victims to find safety.

In this Appropriation Bill the Palaszczuk government reprioritised over \$12 million in funding in response to the recommendations of the *Not now, not ever* domestic and family violence task force report. I have been to DVConnect and I have spent some time with the CEO and staff, where I saw firsthand the tremendous work they are doing. I have spoken in this place before about my experiences visiting the DVConnect office, where the \$1.5 million to assist women, men and children who are suffering is sorely needed. Domestic and family violence is sadly a familiar story in our community. The abuse, the harm, the betrayal—we see so much of this and it is numbing. I am pleased that this numbness is not resulting in paralysis, but action from our state government. I commend the report to the House.