




Speech By
Hon. Yvette D'Ath

MEMBER FOR REDCLIFFE

Record of Proceedings, 15 September 2015

APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL; APPROPRIATION BILL

Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee, Report

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills) (5.18 pm): I thank the committee for its recommendation that the proposed expenditure as detailed in the Appropriation Bill 2015 for the committee's area of responsibility be agreed to by the Legislative Assembly without amendment. The Palaszczuk government is committed to reducing violence in our community and one of our key initiatives, which was identified in the committee's report, is delivering responses to alcohol fuelled violence. We must ensure that we keep our loved ones safe from harm and reduce violence wherever we can in our communities. I am proud to be part of a government that is taking this important issue seriously. It is a crying shame that the LNP's commitment to ending violence does not include a single measure to tackle alcohol related violence. I note that tackling alcohol fuelled violence did not even raise an LNP eyebrow, let alone a mention in the dissenting report.

I thank the committee for its detailed report on this government's commitment to restoring accountability and an evidence based approach to youth justice. I am pleased that the report recognises our approach and that we will be delivering an effective youth justice system that reflects contemporary best practice in the management of juvenile offenders and their families, an approach that is focussed on prevention and rehabilitation. Our government recognises the importance of developing a comprehensive juvenile justice policy that includes interventional strategies, rehabilitation, management strategies and future infrastructure where it is required. We followed through on our promise to have youth boot camps independently evaluated and, as a result, the trial will not be extended when the contracts expire this month and next. I note from the committee's report that the public hearing identified the costs that were incurred under the boot camp policy implementation by the former LNP government. I also note some of the comments from members this evening in relation to this. I say that, if they were so concerned about services being extended or continued, maybe the former government should have made sure there was funding attached to it. The report also refers to my mode of transport to Lincoln Springs, which was a car. That is in sharp contrast to the previous Attorney-General, who spent \$15,000 on two helicopters.

Fighting organised crime in this state is a key election promise of the Palaszczuk government. The opposition's questioning in estimates hearings and its subsequent dissenting report are simply baffling. The opposition was critical that some of the funding granted to the CCC was temporary and that seven jobs ceased because that funding ended. When did that temporary funding end? In December 2014 under the LNP, yet the dissenting report in relation to the 2015-16 budget estimates seeks to criticise this government for seven positions that ceased and funding that ceased in December 2014. At some point, the LNP has to recognise that it was its funding that ceased.

The total grants and other contributions for the CCC for 2015-16 is \$53.584 million compared to \$52.179 million in 2014-15. This government is serious about tackling all forms of organised crime, whether it be extortion and money laundering, networked child sex rings, illicit drug markets or criminal motorcycle gangs. In the meantime, we will leave that legislation in place so that the police and those fighting organised crime on the front line have the certainty and continuity they need.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Hart): Order! Members, if you want to have a conversation, please take it outside.

Mrs D'ATH: I thank the non-government members for their statement of reservations submitted in response to the consideration of the 2015-16 portfolio budget estimates hearing in relation to training and skills. I think it is almost as much as I have heard for the first six months in relation to training skills and I was pleased to see at least two pages spent on this important issue. When in government, those opposite invested significant time and resources on ridding the state of the public provider of vocational education and training in Queensland. I can confirm that we are absolutely committed to restoring the status of TAFE. For the member for Gympie, I clarify that, in fact, we always said that we would take into account ongoing issues in relation to asset usage. That was made clear in my meeting with USC some months ago. Therefore, it is misleading to say that we were never going to consider any proposals until June last year. I clarified that in the estimates hearing. Again, this shows just how little the LNP understands about training in this state.

(Time expired)