




Speech By  
**Joseph Kelly**

**MEMBER FOR GREENSLOPES**

---

Record of Proceedings, 16 August 2016

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

 **Mr KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (10.01 pm): I speak in support of the report that has been tabled on the estimates hearing of the Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee. The opportunity to scrutinise three fine ministers and senior officials from their departments was one that I welcomed. All of these portfolio areas—Child Safety, Disability Services, Communities, Health, Ambulance Services, Domestic and Family Violence Prevention—are areas where the community rightly demands high standards of service not because they personally may need it but because as a society people recognise that empowering people with disabilities, keeping children safe, promoting and restoring health, and building families based on solid and healthy relationships are all inherently good for our community.

The National Disability Insurance Scheme is the most significant shift in public social policy since the introduction of the universal healthcare schemes in the eighties. Economists have been theorising about such a scheme for many decades. The people I know with a disability just want greater control over their own lives. The scheme offers great hope to people with a disability, but there is no doubt that such a massive change can create challenges for all involved.

I was pleased that the minister was able to outline how the appropriation will be used to manage the rollout of the NDIS and the safeguards that will be in place to support people with disabilities, their families, their carers and the organisations that seek to serve people with a disability. I am so pleased to have Vision Australia, the Queensland Narrating Service, the MND and Me Foundation, Grow and Carers Queensland all based in my electorate. It was a great pleasure recently to take the minister out to visit Vision Australia and the Queensland Narrating Service to discuss their preparations for the NDIS rollout.

I was particularly pleased with the budget initiatives supporting parents who are ageing who support people with a disability as well as those measures aimed at supporting people with disabilities who have highly complex needs due to challenging behaviours. I know many parents in my electorate who devote their entire lives to caring for their son or daughter with a disability. I know that for all parents who are caring or supporting a son or a daughter with a disability there is a constant and ongoing fear of what will happen in the future. This budget contains measures that help to answer that question.

I would be the first to admit that I am more familiar with the area of health than of child safety. However, it seems to me that the old adage in health that prevention is better than cure certainly applies in both portfolio areas. I was very pleased to hear that both Ministers Fentiman and Dick discuss the focus that their departments have on early intervention and prevention and the measures in the budget to achieve these objectives. There are numerous highlights I could mention, but I just want to focus on a couple.

I was particularly pleased to see that pre-exposure prophylaxis demonstration unit funded. I for one will never forget the young men I cared for in the eighties who were dying of a disease that we now

consider to be preventable and treatable. This initiative is another great step in the journey to eradicate HIV and AIDS from the world.

Education is empowerment and I am particularly pleased about the \$1.2 million allocated in the budget to support 100 young women leaving care to access higher education. This is an incredibly important initiative that will have intergenerational impacts. Whilst that program aims to break the cycle of disadvantage, I was pleased to question Minister Fentiman about another program aimed at breaking the cycle of violence. The Walking with Dads program aims to work with perpetrators of domestic violence to help them accept responsibility for their actions and change their behaviours. It is easy to mouth 'get tough on crime' mantras, but it is much harder to use evidence based programs aimed at achieving real change. The minister is to be complimented for this.

I read the statement of reservation from the non-government members. I have to question whether they were in the same room as me. They clearly did not listen to any of the minister's responses. In fact, I am pretty sure they did not read the transcript or they chose not to understand it. The issues they raised all received reasonable and thoughtful responses. Minister Fentiman clearly articulated who has responsibility for child safety in this state and the process for releasing departmental data. Minister Dick and Minister O'Rourke both responded to questions put to them about the recovery of overpayments and the role of the Minister Assisting the Premier in North Queensland. These ministers demonstrated that they are committed to their portfolio areas, are committed to continuing the Palaszczuk government's work of restoring and improving front-line services, and are listening to the people of Queensland and implementing important programs of immense social and community benefit. I commend this report to the House.