




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR LYTTON

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MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Achievements

 **Ms PEASE** (Lytton—ALP) (12.25 pm): I am proud to be a member of the Palaszczuk government, a government that responds to the needs of Queenslanders, creating jobs—over 94,000 in fact— attracting investment and building important infrastructure. The Palaszczuk government has listened and responded to the needs of baysiders—the young, the elderly, the unemployed, the disadvantaged, the business community and industry. However, under the Nicholls-Newman government baysiders suffered—we were punished. We lost many front-line services so important to a community because the LNP cut them: the child safety office—closed; the department of housing office—closed; the Bayside Tenancy Advice and Advocacy Service—closed; the Caravan and Manufactured Home Residents Association—closed; 24-hour primary care—gone; and a huge reduction or relocation of health services out of the bayside. Let us not forget the axing of the successful Skilling Queenslanders for Work program.

Perhaps the most hurtful was the closure of the Moreton Bay Nursing Care Unit. This was a functional, accredited aged-care facility that was closed by the previous LNP government—a policy orchestrated by their current leader. I know that I have spoken many times about this shameful action, an action that meant 85 elderly and infirm residents lost their home. I will continue to remind Queenslanders of the actions of the previous LNP government. Sadly, those attacks were on the some of the most marginalised in my community—the elderly, families, young people, unemployed and renters. The architect of those cuts sits in this House and is none other than the current Leader of the Opposition, the member for Clayfield.

The previous LNP government picked on what they thought were easy targets. However, we baysiders are not easy targets and we sent a strong message in 2015. We made it clear that we would not stand for the disgraceful axing of our local services and the total lack of regard for our community. The great news for baysiders is that the Palaszczuk government is delivering for the bayside and for all of Queensland. Our government—the Palaszczuk government—is committed to creating jobs, building important infrastructure and returning important local front-line services, unlike those opposite's mantra of cut, sack, sell. Gundu Pa, our new community health centre, which is due to open soon, will restore 24-hour primary care services on the bayside and deliver new and upgraded health services. This will meet the growing needs of our community providing a centralised, modern, public health precinct.

Those opposite sacked people. They closed the Moreton Bay Nursing Care Unit and cut services where they were needed the most. That is the clear difference between those opposite and the Palaszczuk government. We build front-line services; the LNP cut them. The Palaszczuk government is all about employing Queenslanders and creating opportunities; the LNP want to cut them. In the bayside, Skilling Queenslanders for Work—which I remind the House was another program axed under the previous LNP government—has, since its reintroduction, supported 340 local young people, and 154 are now employed and 66 are undertaking study or have returned to school.

B'Leigh is one of those 340. She is a 20-year-old woman. Growing up, she was subjected to physical and emotional abuse. In year 12 she was kicked out of home and was living in and out of youth shelters. She suffered depression, was self-harming and attempted suicide. She moved in with a friend and was subjected to mental and sexual abuse, bringing B'Leigh close to breaking point. In her words, she 'hit rock bottom'. Through Get Set for Work she discovered a group of people she could feel safe with and, importantly, she discovered a future. She completed certificates II and III in hospitality and now wants to undertake a community service certificate so she can help other young people in the community who are going through rough times and connect them with the services and caring people who can help them through their struggles.

The Palaszczuk government is investing in education, with funding delivered for new facilities at Wynnum West and Darling Point state schools and Brisbane Bayside State College as well as more teachers and a teacher aide in every prep classroom. Public transport fares have been slashed which means baysiders can save up to \$600 a year, and work is underway on Cross River Rail, which will be a great congestion buster. There are so many things that the Palaszczuk government has done. I could go on and on but I am running out of time. What I want to stress is that this is what good government does. We are about creating opportunities for people in our community, not cutting them.