




Speech By
Joseph Kelly

MEMBER FOR GREENSLOPES

Record of Proceedings, 2 March 2017

MOTION: PALASZCZUK LABOR GOVERNMENT, UNIONS

 **Mr KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (6.05 pm): I rise to speak against this ridiculous motion—
Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: We will pause the clock and start again because I cannot hear the member for Greenslopes. He is not as loud as the member for Kawana.

Mr KELLY: You do not always need volume to be intelligent. I speak against this ridiculous motion. I will let others that I have worked with over the years decide whether I was any good as a nurse or a union official or a disability services worker. What I can tell you is not great is this motion. The team that put it together must have laboured long and hard in their thatched hut all night long—

Ms Pease: In Slovakia.

Mr KELLY: In Slovenia, I think you will find. This government is a government that listens to workers and their unions. We back workers; we do not sack them. We want them to be safe at work and, no matter what type of worker they are, we want them to get paid their penalty rates. We are a government for all Queenslanders. The Palaszczuk government is a government of business. When I go out into my community to talk to small business owners, they say to me, 'We want training as owners. We want training as managers of business.' That is why programs like the Accelerate Small Business Grants Program and the Small Business Digital Grants Program are extremely welcome when I talk to people about them.

The Palaszczuk government is the government of education with the advancing education action plan and robotics and coding. I have been to Mount Gravatt State School and Coorparoo Secondary College and looked at what is happening there. My own children come home and tell me about the lessons they are learning around coding. I have been to the Autism Hub and Reading Centre, which is pushing the literacy of our children even further. We are the government that has put teachers back into the classroom. This world is changing and presenting new challenges. We can respond by building walls or we can respond by educating our young people to rise to the challenges of the future. That is the government I want to be a part of, and that is the government that I am a part of.

The Palaszczuk government is the government of school support staff. We are the government that backs admin officers and grounds people, the people who care for our schools and our buildings and support our teachers in every single suburb in every single tiny town—in places where there are no towns—those are the people that we back, and they are getting pay increases thanks to this government. Some of the lowest paid workers in this state are going to be taking home more pay thanks to this Labor Palaszczuk government—a government for all Queenslanders.

The Palaszczuk Labor government is the government of fairer fares. I can tell you that, when I go to the Coorparoo, Greenslopes and Holland Park West bus stations and talk to commuters, they love it. What they tell me is that they not only love fairer fares but they love the concept of Cross River Rail, and they are happy that we are moving ahead to build Cross River Rail because we are the government of fairer fares. We are also the government that backs people who live in social housing.

We got rid of unfair Newman government policies and we have taken action to make rents fair again. The Palaszczuk government is also the government that treats people experiencing homelessness with dignity. Dignity First is an amazing program which funds organisations like the Orange Sky Laundry and Jack Reed Barbershop, which provide basic services to people to help them build self-esteem, build their dignity and find a way out of homelessness. That is why I am working with community groups in my electorate to apply for the next round of funding.

The Palaszczuk government is a government of job creation. Skilling Queenslanders for Work is a fantastic program. When I walk across the road from my electorate office I walk into Vision Australia. Sixty per cent of working-age people who have low or no vision are unemployed. This program is putting them back to work. Let us not forget the teachers and the nurses we have put back into the schools and hospitals. As a nurse I can say that I am particularly fond of the graduate program because we have to rebuild our profession.

We are also a government for sporting clubs. The Holland Park Hawks, the Coorparoo Juniors Australian Football Club, the Holland Park Sports & Community Club, the Holland Park Junior Cricket Club, the Coorparoo Cricket Club and the HiTech Netball Club are all funded by the Palaszczuk government.

Let us not forget that we are a government of health and we are a government of nursing. The waiting list for the waiting list is gone. Last Saturday at a mobile office an elderly lady came 250 metres down the road to tell me how pleased she was to get off the waiting list for the waiting list and to have her hip operation. To demonstrate, she walked 250 metres home and came back with a cup of tea for me. It was the best cup of tea I had ever had. When it comes to nursing there is only one thing I can say: ratios, ratios, ratios.

I have told members what sort of government the Palaszczuk government is, but I can also tell them what it will not be. It will not be the government of George, by George and for George.

(Time expired)