




Speech By  
**Nikki Boyd**

**MEMBER FOR PINE RIVERS**

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### **APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL; APPROPRIATION BILL: LEGAL AFFAIRS AND COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE**

 **Ms BOYD** (Pine Rivers—ALP) (5.03 pm): I think it is appropriate that I talk about all of the good work that happens through the estimates process and all of the staff who support it, but I want to touch for a moment on what the previous speaker, the member for Everton, said. There was a lot that he covered during the last five minutes, but there was a lot that he omitted. One of his omissions overtook the estimates process in terms of what was reported in the media. It is quite sad that all of the good work undertaken by the legal affairs committee in its consideration of the portfolios it is responsible for examining was overrun by some of the remarks made by the member for Everton.

I subscribe to the old adage that forewarned is forearmed. Certainly my parliamentary colleagues gave me the hot tip. I had heard of the legend of the member for Everton's performances during estimates before we went into the room. I thought that it was perhaps a bit of a hangover from his old footy days—somebody who likes to get the jump; somebody who is used to running for their job.

While I respect the job that the member for Everton did on the footy field, I have never quite observed such a 'brain in neutral, mouth in overdrive' moment as I witnessed from the member for Everton during the estimates process. It was a beauty. The member for Currumbin's face and body language said it all as she sat next to him. The member for Everton slammed the government for a merit based selection process to the state's Parole Board. He slammed the minister for having too much female representation on the board, for having a major gender imbalance and for not being diverse at all.

Helpless looking on, the member for Everton continued to do himself over with the defence for his commentary and the continuation of his questioning. What is worse is that he did not even apologise. He had to be told the next day to come out and apologise unreservedly. As a woman sitting through that estimates process that day, I found the views expressed by the member for Everton archaic and offensive. I do not think there is a place for that whatsoever in this parliament.

That said, I will use my remaining time to look at the positives during the committee process. I certainly thank our wonderful ministers—Minister D'Ath and Minister Ryan—for their attendance and for their thorough answers to questions. I would like to thank the ministers' staff, the DGs, the CEOs, the secretariat, Hansard, opposition members, our astute chair—the member for Stretton—and my colleague the member for Capalaba. From my perspective, the estimates process saw full and thorough responses to questions and ensured that the new measures in this budget were thoroughly explained and continue to build on the successful programs and initiatives reinstated under the Palaszczuk Labor government. A lot of those were reinstated after they were cruelly cut by the Newman-Nicholls government.

It was a pleasure to be part of this process that will see true Labor initiatives come to life. Such initiatives include: transition of 17-year-olds out of adult prison and into the youth justice system; implementation of the much needed recommendations from the Sofronoff report; various measures to

reduce recidivism for those most at risk, like offender programs, court diversion programs, intervention initiatives; funding to Legal Aid Queensland and the much needed reinstatement of the Drug Court; provision of \$33.3 million so our essential community legal centres can continue to service the demand that they have in the face of federal LNP cuts from Malcolm Turnbull, which is something that I am very passionate about and spoken at length about in this place.

Other initiatives include: counterterrorism measures to keep Queenslanders safe, including the construction of a centre at Westgate police academy; expansion and enhancement of our Transition to Success program—and it was wonderful to hear from the Attorney some of the real life success stories; successful measures to stamp out alcohol fuelled violence in our community; measures to protect, promote and understand human rights; and ongoing work on implementation of the *Not now, not ever* report recommendations. We heard a report back on the offence of strangulation. There is so much more. My list is long and varied, but I have run out of time. Congratulations to the ministers. It was wonderful to be a part of the process.