




Speech By
Hon. Yvette D'Ath

MEMBER FOR REDCLIFFE

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PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Budget

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills) (9.57 am): Yesterday in his budget reply speech the Leader of the Opposition stated in response to people being fixated on their plans for the Public Service—

Let me make that position very clear: there will be no forced redundancies. Unless, like every other workplace, people voluntarily decide to leave the Public Service, everybody who is a public servant will keep their job. Just so we are all clear, let me say it again: there will be no forced redundancies.

The Leader of the Opposition could not even keep his promise for five seconds because they have already created one forced redundancy on their side. The situation involving the member for Broadwater was not a voluntary redundancy. She was not given any options.

This is a very serious issue. You would have to question the level of trust in you by the public when you need to have your people standing outside Public Service buildings handing out a flyer saying, 'Fact: The LNP's plan includes no forced redundancies. Fact: The LNP's plan includes exchange and secondment programs with the private sector.' Does 'exchange and secondment' mean, 'Here, you can have them because we don't want them anymore'? Or does it mean, 'We will use your people because we don't want to pay for any public servants anymore'? You can only imagine the focus groups, can't you? 'Do you trust the Leader of the Opposition, Tim Nicholls, when he says, "No forced redundancies"?' Let us have a look at what they said back in 2012. Campbell Newman said—

Despite all the hype and hysteria, not one permanent employee has been 'sacked' as a result of the budget process.

He said—

My point is this: as we have said before, there will be reductions through voluntary redundancies ...

The Leader of the Opposition himself said—

We are putting \$800 million on the table for voluntary redundancy program for people who choose not to seek redeployment.

We know what redeployment meant, don't we? It meant: take the money now or you get nothing. That is their idea of voluntary. There was nothing voluntary about it.

We heard the Leader of the Opposition in his Press Club speech say, 'That wasn't me. I wasn't the leader then,' but Campbell Newman knew the facts, didn't he? Campbell Newman made it clear: Tim Nicholls was the treasurer, he made the decisions and he cannot be trusted.