



Speech By  
**Bruce Saunders**


**MEMBER FOR MARYBOROUGH**

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Record of Proceedings, 23 August 2018

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

### **Education, Employment and Small Business Committee, Report**

 **Mr SAUNDERS** (Maryborough—ALP) (11.37 am): I rise to talk on the Education, Employment and Small Business Committee estimates hearing. I would like to thank the chair for a wonderful day and the two ministers for their answers regarding their portfolios. We heard much from the other side about a protection racket. I did not see it. Questions from my little preppies at Sunbury State School would have been better than those asked by the opposition during the estimates hearing. The Palaszczuk government is doing a wonderful job in relation to education in the Maryborough electorate and across Queensland. As a result of this year's budget there will be 1,000 more teachers; 4,000 over the next four years. Every child will get an education. A Labor government educates. We do not look back, we look forward to the future. We are a progressive government that makes sure that every child who goes to school in this state gets an education so they can compete in the new economy moving forward.

I was very impressed with the performance of the minister during the education and IR sessions of the estimates hearing. The minister gave concise answers to questions that were sometimes a little bit off-putting. One would think that in this day and age we would be talking about the money spent on schools, but we wasted 30 minutes on a plaque. I am sure parents and teachers of Albert State School, Sunbury State School and other schools in my electorate are very worried about plaques in schools, but they are more worried about what this government spends on education in my electorate.

I will run through what is happening in the Maryborough electorate. This year's budget contains great spends for Maryborough schools. I am talking about schools such as Mungar State School, Tiaro State School and Albert State School, which is getting a STEM classroom. That is very important for the future of our children. Principal Phil is a fantastic bloke who looks after the students in one of the oldest schools in my electorate. The budget contains \$10 million for an upgrade to Maryborough State High School. Those are just some of the things happening in the Maryborough electorate through the Education portfolio.

In terms of industrial relations, we talked about the labour hire laws that protect workers in this state. The minister should be very proud of having brought that great legislation to this House.

In terms of the Employment and Small Business portfolio, the minister talked about Skilling Queenslanders for Work. I love that program. It is great for my electorate. One of the things that I like about the Skilling Queenslanders for Work program is that when you go to the award ceremonies the room is only half full and they say, 'Joe Bloggs is not here because he has a job,' and 'Mary Smith is not here because she has a job.' I absolutely love that about Skilling Queenslanders for Work. When I talk to the young people who have come through that program, they tell me about the work that they have undertaken as a result of the Skilling Queenslanders for Work program—a program that was absolutely cut by the previous LNP government. That government did not care about education and it

did not care about young people getting back to work. Another great program that the minister talked about is the Back to Work program. The other day, I went to a local coffee shop where I met a young lady who was employed there through the Back to Work program. She had been looking for work for a long time and she was successful through the Back to Work program.

When we look at what the Palaszczuk government is delivering, it is tick, tick, tick. All the opposition could do was carp and waste time talking about plaques and this and that, instead of getting down to the nitty-gritty and finding out how good the government is at delivering for education, IR and small business across the state. In my life I have spent a lot of time in small business and it is good to see a government that is very interested in small business. Small Business Week is a wonderful thing that really gets people involved.

I thank all members of the committee for a good estimates hearing. As I did before, I thank both the ministers for their very informative sessions, which ensured that everyone in Queensland, particularly in the Maryborough electorate, knows how good this Palaszczuk Labor government is and what it is doing for education and training, IR and small business. I commend the report to the House.