




Speech By
Corrine McMillan

MEMBER FOR MANSFIELD

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APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL; APPROPRIATION BILL

Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee, Report

 **Ms McMILLAN** (Mansfield—ALP) (2.11 pm): I am delighted to speak on behalf of the committee, in particular the chairperson of the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee, the member for Toohey. I thank all members who attended the committee hearing, although we know some found it difficult to ask relevant questions pertaining to the budget.

Estimates is a necessary process, allowing all members of parliament, in particular the non-government members, to question members of the executive and senior public servants on the array of positive programs and initiatives being delivered by the Palaszczuk government. Transparency and accountability are the hallmark of a good government and I am proud to be a member of this Palaszczuk government.

Estimates provides members opportunities to explore areas of government spending and the facts speak for themselves. On review of *Hansard* and on a rough calculation of questions during the hearing of the Attorney-General, I am advised the opposition asked 64 per cent of the questions, the government asked 26 per cent, the member for Maiwar asked seven per cent and the member for Noosa and member for Mirani asked one per cent.

During the hearing of Minister Ryan I am advised the opposition asked 63 per cent of the questions, the government asked 28 per cent, the member for Maiwar asked five per cent and the member for Mirani asked three per cent. During the hearing of Minister Crawford I am advised the opposition asked 67 per cent of the questions compared to 25 per cent asked by the government, six per cent came from the member for Noosa and three per cent came from the member for Maiwar. Overall the non-government members of the committee asked 73 per cent of the questions compared to 27 per cent asked by the government. Of course, as an educator I understand the importance of asking good questions in order to receive the answer that one is seeking.

Whilst it is difficult to divorce politics from the process, attempts at a 'gotcha' moment detracted from the serious work of government. It would be remiss of me not to note the appalling and unparliamentary manner in which the member for Kawana conducted himself during the committee's questioning of the highly regarded chairperson of the Crime and Corruption Commission. I understand the member for Kawana indicated that the cufflinks were a present from his family in reference to Frank Underwood from *House of Cards*. I do not know what is worse, choosing to wear the 'F' and 'U' cufflinks, choosing to be associated with a character who portrays a corrupt and murderous politician or choosing to be associated with an actor in the headlines for the worst reasons. None of these options reflect well on the member for Kawana or a member of parliament. Can I say very proudly that even my students possessed integrity and understood the dress or attire appropriate for school and the workplace.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the large number of public servants who prepared the comprehensive brief for ministers and senior officials on all matters relating to the Palaszczuk government's budget. As a long-term employee within the Public Service I am well aware of the degree of rigour that exists regarding the expenditure of public money, as there should be. As elected officials we should strive every day to ensure that public money is expended for the benefit of all Queenslanders. The estimates process is a vital process to allow all members, in particular the non-government members, to hold this government to account. Finally, I thank the Attorney-General, Minister Ryan and Minister Crawford and their officials for actively participating in the estimates hearing. I commend the Palaszczuk government's budget and the report to the House.