



Speech By  
**David Janetzki**


**MEMBER FOR TOOWOOMBA SOUTH**

---

Record of Proceedings, 22 August 2018

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

**Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee, Report**

 **Mr JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (2.25 pm): It is my pleasure to rise to make a contribution to the debate of the committee report. Before I begin, I acknowledge the presence in the gallery of Mr Smith and the student leaders of Concordia Lutheran College, which is my former high school. It is great to have you with us this afternoon.

This estimates committee process was particularly revealing. During the process, a number of issues were revealed that I want to talk about. The first is that, nearly 12 months ago, we had a review by the QFCC into blue cards in Queensland. The report made 81 recommendations and raised a raft of issues. Twelve months later, we have got nowhere fast. In this year's budget, QFCC funding has been cut by \$1 million at a time when its recommendations need to be implemented with due haste.

During the estimates process, we also discovered that the no-card no-start blue card policy, announced as a matter of priority by the Labor government during the last election campaign, is in the never-never. We heard from the Attorney-General that it will be approximately 18 months—keyword 'approximately', meaning the never-never—at a time when the child safety crisis is ever growing. I simply refer to the complaints that have been made over the past couple of months in relation to the blue card system. Media outlets have raised issues about particular categories of worker that do not require a blue card, such as a shopping centre Santa Claus and a driving instructor. There are whole categories of people involved. I asked the Attorney-General to take the next approximately 18 months to ascertain whether there should be an additional reinforcement of the law.

The true reveal of the estimates process in relation to the blue card system came when the Attorney-General was asked, 'As we speak, how many people working with children have a blue card application pending?' The figure was staggering and should send a shiver down the spine of anybody concerned about child safety. The figure was 6,471. At that point in time, 6,471 people working with children had a blue card application pending. All we heard from the government and the Attorney-General was that in 18 months time we may have a blue card system that is ready.

**Mr Minnikin:** 'May'.

**Mr JANETZKI:** I take the interjection from the member for Chatsworth. That was an approximation. I give a commitment to watch with an eagle eye the rollout of the blue card system. In this year's budget, an extraordinary amount—millions of dollars—has been committed to the blue card system. We will be watching very closely the implementation of the system, because our child safety system depends on it.

Another key reveal, which I often talk about in the House, related to the regulation of the funeral industry in Queensland. There has been an over 250 per cent increase in complaints to the Office of Fair Trading in relation to the funeral industry. During the estimates process, we asked what the government will be doing in regard to regulating or oversighting the funeral industry and all we heard was 'absolutely nothing'. The funeral industry is asking for some reinforcement across-the-board.

**Mrs D'Ath** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Stevens): Pause the clock. Minister, you have been constantly interjecting. I note you are on the speaking list. Please refrain from speaking again until your turn comes.

**Mr JANETZKI:** We have a system where the government is just wiping its hands of any responsibility whatsoever. All it had to offer up is an audit process in the next 12 months. All the Office of Fair Trading said in response to the Valigura family—the family who were the subject of significant media concern at the start of the year; Mrs Valigura's coffin had been swapped—was that no criminal law had been breached. There was not even a mention of the fair trading laws in this state. That is a complete dereliction of duty of the Office of Fair Trading.

In the 30 seconds remaining I want to talk about the ridiculous complaints and allegations made against the member for Southern Downs by the chair of the committee, the member for Toohey.

**Mr Mickelberg:** Disgraceful.

**Mr JANETZKI:** I take that interjection from the member for Buderim. It was a disgrace to suggest it. The Speaker paid it short shrift by not even requiring the member for Southern Downs to make a formal response. The Labor Party confect outrage like no other. It is completely unacceptable that the member for Toohey should abuse his position in that way.

*(Time expired)*