




Speech By
Hon. Yvette D'Ath

MEMBER FOR REDCLIFFE

Record of Proceedings, 15 June 2018

**APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL; APPROPRIATION BILL; REVENUE
LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL; BETTING TAX BILL**

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice) (12.45 pm): I am proud to rise in support of these bills before the House today and the Palaszczuk Labor government's 2018-19 budget, which clearly focuses on our key priorities for advancing Queensland. Through this budget the government is supporting jobs and growing the economy. We are keeping Queenslanders healthy. We are providing a great start for our children. We are protecting the Great Barrier Reef and we are supporting our regions. Importantly, we are keeping our communities safe by not only increasing our police and firefighters but we are also continuing to invest in our broader justice system.

Building on our investments in the criminal justice system in our first term of government, the 2018-19 Palaszczuk government's budget delivers \$5 million to fund 30 staff in the office of the Director of Public Prosecutions. This will see more prosecutors in our courts. We are also extending the Townsville Specialist Domestic and Family Violence Court and its associated Mount Isa and Palm Island circuit courts. Tackling domestic and family violence remains one of the state government's highest priorities. That is why \$8.1 million is provided across relevant agencies to expand the Townsville, Mount Isa and Palm Island DV courts to deal with criminal matters as well as civil matters. This will ensure that all who appear before the court have the benefit of the specialist magistrate and access to other support services and builds on learnings from our successful Southport Domestic and Family Violence Court. We have also allocated \$9.1 million to make the successful Murri courts permanent across Queensland and for the expansion of Court Link services to Southport, Mount Isa and Ipswich.

The Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council will receive \$6.9 million to continue researching the effectiveness of sentencing practices in reducing crime, including the current review of the state's child homicide laws. It is vital that our justice agencies keep pace with the changing technological and social landscape. That is why the 2018-19 budget includes \$16.3 million for the Crime and Corruption Commission to enhance its information security platform and deliver digital investigative services. The 2018-19 budget provides funding to help vulnerable members of society and enhance community safety. It includes \$17 million to help implement new Blue Card information technology and reforms, including the No Card, No Start policy. This funding will boost the introduction of an online Blue Card application process and improve processing times. Nothing is more important than the protection and safety of our children, and this money will ensure that Queensland's Blue Card system continues to be one of the country's most effective and comprehensive screening processes.

We have also allocated \$4.63 million to provide for 44 staff at the Director of Child Protection Litigation, which assists with child protection matters in the courts. There is also assistance for community education on cyberbullying, with \$396,000 for the Queensland Family and Child Commission's Out of the Dark Program and Hearing the Voices of Children initiative. Wideranging improvements have been made to Queensland's Victim Assist process, and we have earmarked an additional \$11.4 in financial support to help victims of crime get their lives back on track. Funding of

\$910,000 will go to the restorative justice program in Aurukun, which is helping to improve community safety by enabling them to conduct local mediations.

I seek leave to have the remainder of my speech incorporated in *Hansard*. I can advise that the Deputy Speaker has reviewed and approved my speech for incorporation and an electronic copy of my speech has been made available to Hansard.

Leave granted.

Enhancing justice agencies

Mr Speaker, this Budget is also about enhancing our justice agencies.

We are allocating \$2.5 million to boost staff at the Office of the Public Guardian and Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal to meet demands arising from the implementation of the National Disability Insurance Scheme.

The Palaszczuk Government remains committed to introducing a Human Rights Act for Queensland. That is why we are providing the Anti-Discrimination Commission Queensland with \$2.5 million to support the Act's administration and operation.

There will also be \$2.5 million for the Office of the Information Commissioner for additional resources and officers to review decisions about access to government agency information.

And there is \$258,000 to assist with the finalisation of the Dreamworld coronial inquest to determine the cause of the 2016 deaths of four people.

Mr Speaker, the safety of our community is our number one priority.

The Palaszczuk Government's 2017-2018 budget delivers for Queensland, committing to investigating crime in all its forms, delivering justice, and supporting victims of crime.

It also builds on our commitment to plan for the future, providing efficient justice and court services for the people of Queensland.

Redcliffe

Mr Speaker, this budget also delivers for my electorate, and the wonderful people of Redcliffe.

Our record spending on health will mean \$3.8 million for new equipment and infrastructure at Redcliffe Hospital's Special Care Nursery, Birth Suite and Paediatric Wards

There's also \$36 million to build the over 600 space carpark at the hospital.

For Redcliffe schools—there is:

- \$400,000 to refurbish the home economics block at Clontarf Beach High;
- \$350,000 for classrooms at Woody Point Special School and;
- \$763,000 for maintenance and upgrade works at eight schools across Redcliffe.

And yes, we will deliver the barge—\$4 million has been set aside to prepare the proposed site at Scarborough for a future barge operation connecting Redcliffe Peninsula directly to Moreton Island.

The budget also continues to provide funding for social housing and support services for people with disabilities and domestic violence services.

Mr Speaker, this is a budget for all Queenslanders, delivering fairness and the services families need and deserve.

I'm proud to be part of this Palaszczuk Government putting Queenslanders first.