




Speech By
Meaghan Scanlon

MEMBER FOR GAVEN

Record of Proceedings, 16 May 2019

PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Federal Election

 **Ms SCANLON** (Gaven—ALP) (2.21 pm): The decisions that are made in this parliament and in Canberra have real-life consequences to families like mine. My dad battled melanoma cancer for many years which left my family thousands of dollars out of pocket in medical expenses. My brother, Callum, has Down syndrome, which has made schooling, finding a job and living independently more difficult than it was for me. Universal health care, the NDIS and needs based education funding are not just political slogans. They actually provide hope for families like mine.

Last week I was genuinely shocked and concerned to read in the paper that the new LNP candidate for Moncrieff, Ms Angie Bell, was 'inspired' by Tony Abbott and his cabinet colleagues to get involved in politics which she went on to clarify was at an event in Canberra for the delivery of Joe Hockey's budget.

Ms Bates interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Order! Member for Mudgeeraba, you have had your go.

Ms SCANLON: I am curious as to which aspects of that budget inspired Ms Bell's active involvement in LNP politics. Was it the deep cuts or the long string of broken election promises or was it the depiction of hardworking people in our community as 'leaners'? I remember that budget well because it also motivated me to get involved in politics due to its savagery that hurt so many families in our community. It dumped Gonski school funding, cutting billions of dollars from our education system. It cut billions of dollars from our hospitals and increased out-of-pocket expenses for visiting a GP or getting an X-ray or scan. It cut funds from preventative health and increased the cost to medicines on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme. It cut over a billion dollars worth of concessions to pensioners. The list goes on. These are the cuts that the new LNP candidate, Ms Angie Bell, was inspired by.

To make matters worse, the only LNP minister we have on the Gold Coast shockingly admitted at a chamber of commerce meeting last week that the reason the Gold Coast did not get our fair share of M1 funding was that we did not sell public assets. That is what Karen Andrews said, and I quote—

It was an entirely different funding commitment in New South Wales. A lot of that was because New South Wales sold assets. The Queensland state government did not sell assets and they had access to an entirely different funding block.

That was her response when asked why New South Wales received 80 per cent of funding for the M1 while we only got 50 per cent.

We have a choice at this election: a federal Labor government that will invest \$2.3 billion to dramatically slash out-of-pocket costs for cancer patients, a team that will build a new mental health facility on the Gold Coast and invest in education, or an LNP Morrison government who would rather give billions of dollars worth of tax cuts to the top end of town. I think the choice the clear.