




Speech By  
**Hon. Dr Steven Miles**  
**MEMBER FOR MURRUMBA**

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Record of Proceedings, 4 April 2019

**MOTION**

**Federal Budget**

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (12.18 pm): For the sake of all Queenslanders, we can say that it is nearly over—these long, hard years of LNP rule at a federal level, these long years of the Abbott-Turnbull-Morrison failed governments. It is nearly over, and lucky for us because on Tuesday night we saw just how badly it has failed and it continues to fail. This motion moved by the Premier outlines precisely how this government has failed—failed on health and hospitals, failed on dental care, failed to look after Australians with a disability, failed to look after older Australians in need of residential aged care. That is why those of us on this side of the House will be supporting this motion moved by the Premier which supports Queenslanders and what Queenslanders need and getting a fair deal for Queenslanders.

I am not usually in the business of giving political advice to those opposite but, if I were, my advice would be that they do not need to do this. They do not need to defend the federal government. They need a bit of distance. They need a bit of differentiation. They do not need to walk in here and say that they are more loyal to Scott Morrison than they are to Queenslanders—but, no, instead there they are lock step with their party bosses in Canberra defending them and their failed decisions and their failed policies instead of defending Queenslanders. Those opposite should not do that because this is a bad government that delivered a bad budget. This bad budget locked in \$316 million in cuts to Queensland's hospitals. That is funding for surgeries and procedures dating as far back as 2016 which we have not been paid for despite a huge increase in demand. The federal government refuses to pay our hospitals their fair share.

This budget fails because the supposed surplus is propped up by funds stolen from the National Disability Insurance Scheme. Could there be a lower way of getting the budget back in the black than by throttling access to the NDIS, which is precisely what the federal government has done? There are 400 people in Queensland hospitals waiting for their NDIS packages, 250 of them in South-East Queensland hospitals. Instead of giving them the accommodation that they need, Josh Frydenberg has said, 'No, I want that money because I want to pretend that I have a budget surplus.' This budget again locked in the LNP's cuts to dental funding. Even in the face of recent reports from the Grattan Institute that found Queenslanders were waiting too long on public dental waitlists and recommended the Commonwealth fund universal dental care, instead it has ignored that report and not even reversed the cuts that it already made—its \$8.7 million of cuts—to public dental despite COAG health ministers from both sides—Labor and the LNP; none from Queensland, but other LNP members—saying that it should reverse its cuts and it should sign a new long-term agreement on public dental.

In the face of these cuts from the Abbott-Turnbull-Morrison—whoever is in charge this week—government, it is the Palaszczuk government that has had to do the heavy lifting for our hospitals. We have already opened 527 new beds, and there are more on the way. We have hired more paramedics

and nurses and healthcare staff to help with that demand. Our job will get a lot easier when we have a Shorten Labor government that will stop the cuts to health care, stop the cuts to disabilities, stop the cuts to aged care and instead work with us to take better care of Queenslanders.