




Speech By  
**Hon. Yvette D'Ath**

**MEMBER FOR REDCLIFFE**

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Record of Proceedings, 14 June 2019

**APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL; APPROPRIATION BILL; REVENUE  
AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice) (11.54 am): The 2019 Labor budget is a budget that puts Queenslanders at its core. No matter who you are, no matter where you are from, this budget will support you. There is a clear contrast between the Palaszczuk Labor government's budgets and the three delivered by the LNP. When in government the LNP prioritised the sacking of 14,000 public servants. On this side of the House we believe that there is dignity in work. We believe that having a job is the cornerstone of everything else in a person's life, and that is why this budget, like Labor budgets which have gone before, is unashamedly focused on jobs for Queenslanders.

We have created approximately 207,000 jobs in Queensland since our election in 2015 and this has been done without cutting services, sacking public servants or selling assets. This budget invests more in education, health and the infrastructure Queensland needs. While there is strong investment in these important areas across Queensland, I am proud to say that the Palaszczuk government's fifth budget delivers directly and indirectly for my community of Redcliffe. Our state is forever growing and the services that support it need to grow too. That is why I am proud of the Palaszczuk government's \$19.2 billion investment in health, which means that there will be more doctors, nurses and health professionals in our hospitals and communities supporting Queenslanders.

We have seen this money flow through to our local community. Since coming to government, an additional 180 nurses have been hired to support and care for patients at the Redcliffe Hospital. Over \$16 million is in this budget to upgrade the medical imaging services at the Redcliffe Hospital, which includes the purchasing and installation of an MRI machine. I am pleased to also welcome a new CT scanner—this will be the second scanner for the Redcliffe Hospital, which is much needed—which the Minister for Health and I had the pleasure of announcing a couple of weeks ago. The amount of \$5.5 million has been allocated to construct an additional operating theatre at our Redcliffe Hospital and refurbish the recovery unit to support additional surgeries and improve patient experiences when they are getting the vital health services they need. This is in addition to the existing works already funded by the Palaszczuk government, including the construction of the new four-storey carpark, with construction to commence later this year, and the new special care nursery, birth suite and paediatric unit.

People who know me know that I am passionate about education and training. Having a strong education system sets an individual up for life. I am pleased that the Palaszczuk government is investing \$1.464 billion in our school system. Locally, we will directly share in around \$2.5 million of funding to refurbish and undertake maintenance works at our local schools, including Woody Point Special School, Clontarf Beach State School, Redcliffe Special School and Humpybong State School just to name a few. I am sure this funding will be warmly welcomed by all our school communities and I look forward to getting out to see some of the works soon.

However, as we all know, education does not finish at the school gate. That is why the Palaszczuk government has continued its funding of our TAFE facilities, with over \$1 million for the Redcliffe TAFE to enable the construction of a nursing ward to help train locals to become qualified health professionals. Funding has also been allocated for vocational education and training, with over \$193 million budgeted to help year 12 school leavers obtain their first post-school qualification to assist them in gaining a job, along with helping many others in the community retrain and reskill.

I am also pleased to welcome over \$1.1 million of funding for our NGOs to continue to deliver specialist homelessness services, including Chameleon House and Open Minds Australia. Our local sporting and recreational clubs will also receive continued or additional funding to support their vital work, including the Newport Cruising Yacht Club and local football and rugby clubs.

Our government understands that some in our community may be doing it tough and we are committed to delivering concessions to assist families, young people, seniors and pensioners in our community manage cost-of-living pressures. That is why I welcome \$5.66 billion in funding to help household budgets via an array of different concessions. I encourage eligible residents in our community to visit [www.qld.gov.au/smartsavings](http://www.qld.gov.au/smartsavings) to find out more information.

While many in this chamber may get excited over power, I am excited to see the continuation of funding for power of a different kind. This year's budget sees nearly \$4 million allocated to continue the upgrade works at the Redcliffe power substation. These works include transformer replacement and upgrade works to improve network performance and reliance, which I know will be welcomed in our community, in particular at our local Meals on Wheels Association which relies on a consistent stream of electricity to power their appliances and oven—which I note was funded by a Gambling Community Benefit Fund grant—to make thousands of meals for our community each year. I take this opportunity to thank them and all of our hardworking volunteers right across the peninsula who work tirelessly, day in and day out, for our community.

As the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice I am proud that this budget rules in favour of justice for all Queenslanders. Queenslanders will have better and faster access to justice, with the Palaszczuk government increasing funding to the operations of the courts by \$57.7 million over the next four years. As our state's population grows, so do the demands on our court system and that is why the 2019-20 budget will provide the courts and justice agencies with even more resources. This budget sees additional funding of \$14.2 million to deliver front-line services within our courthouses, which includes funding for 20 new front-line registry and leadership staff across our state.

For 2019-20, \$1.5 million has been allocated for 12 new prosecution and support staff at the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, with \$42.8 million over four years to support our independent public prosecution service. An extra \$13.1 million will go towards the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal over five years to boost services and help deliver on the new lemon laws legislation to provide greater consumer protection for Queenslanders who get stuck with defective vehicles. A sum of \$2.9 million will also go towards the Coroners Court, which will help the establishment of a second temporary registrar unit.

The Palaszczuk government understands the importance of funding vital support and intervention programs and is providing an additional \$2.8 million to supplement current Community Justice Group funding, to allow them to continue their role in supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people involved with the criminal justice system. Increased funding of \$6.6 million over four years has been allocated to expand Court Link services to Maroochydore, Redcliffe and Caboolture and to integrate with the Queensland Magistrates Early Referral into Treatment program. Funding has also been provided to expand the Murri Court program to Ipswich, which is another important diversionary and intervention program. I look forward to opening the new Ipswich Murri Court next week.

This budget includes an additional \$2.5 million over four years to support the independent child death review panel as part of \$13.5 million in this financial year for child protection litigation services. This funding will establish a new model to ensure its independence, as recommended by the Queensland Family and Child Commission. An additional \$27 million over five years has also been allocated to the Office of the Public Guardian to deliver protection to children in care and vulnerable adults, and \$15.3 million has been allocated over four years to support victims of crime access financial assistance.

I am proud to be a member of the Palaszczuk government that is delivering on health, education, infrastructure, community safety and social support services for Queenslanders and my local community of Redcliffe. I commend the bills to the House.