



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

**MEMBER FOR REDCLIFFE**

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Record of Proceedings, 20 August 2019


## **APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL**

### **APPROPRIATION BILL**

#### **Consideration in Detail (Cognate Debate)**

#### **Appropriation Bill**

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

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice) (4.47 pm): I am pleased to follow the member for Toowoomba South to correct the record. Once again he misleads this parliament by making such claims. What occurred in estimates was simply applying the standing orders. If the member for Toowoomba South is not familiar with the standing orders he should read them, because members have the opportunity to ask questions of statutory bodies and the CEOs listed in schedule 7. They also have the opportunity to ask questions of the minister and the director-general. They cannot randomly call up anyone else within the department of whom they want to ask questions directly. That is the standing orders. That is the way it applied when members opposite were in government and that is the way it is applied while Labor is in government. I did not hear them in government complain at all—other than changing the estimates process in that all estimates were on the same day so that media could not cover all of what was happening in the committees. When we talk about transparency and accountability in the estimates process, we certainly have it all over the LNP when compared to its record.

I rise to make a contribution to the debate on the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee's 2019-20 budget estimates report. In fact, I will talk about the budget. This is my fifth year reporting on the progress of the Palaszczuk government's commitment to delivering for all Queenslanders and keeping Queenslanders safe. This year's budget continues to build on previous budgets to support this.

We have seen an additional \$57.7 million allocated over four years to support the operation of our courts right across Queensland, providing access to justice for Queenslanders. As we know, our courts undertake a difficult but important job in ensuring that justice and the rule of law are upheld in our state. This funding will go a long way to support this vital work.

The government investment in the justice system includes upgrade works to a number of our courthouses across Queensland—in particular in regional Queensland, in Rockhampton and Townsville. I had the great pleasure recently of joining the members for Rockhampton and Townsville to visit these courthouses to see firsthand the work being undertaken, in particular to modernise our courtrooms for victims of domestic and family violence.

Some \$13.1 million over five years has been allocated to support the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal in its delivery of the new lemon laws, which passed this House in April, and, I am pleased to say, will commence on 1 September this year. These new laws will provide Queenslanders with greater protections, if they get stuck with a lemon vehicle, to take steps to rectify the situation by allowing them to take the matter to QCAT.

It is pleasing to note that the implementation of our government's no-card no-start blue card system, I have been advised, is on track, with continued funding allocated to support this vital program, which, when completed and live next year, will strengthen the already strong working with children check system. I have taken the absence of any questions on this topic from the opposition members at the hearings as them supporting the government's work on this important project.

The Palaszczuk government understands the importance of protecting the most vulnerable in our community. That is why we have continued or provided increased funding in a number of areas, including but not limited to an increase of \$9.7 million over three years for the QFCC, \$2.5 million over four years to establish the new independent child death review board, increased funding of \$13.5 million in this year's budget for Child Protection Litigation services, and an extra \$2.3 million over two years to continue an additional Childrens Court magistrate and associated staff.

I was pleased to release the Quantem report—an independent evaluation and the most comprehensive evaluation ever done of alcohol fuelled violence initiatives in this state and liquor policy. That report showed a very promising reduction in key measures such as a 29 per cent average reduction per month statewide in serious assaults between 3 am and 6 am; a 29 per cent reduction in ambulance call-outs in safe night precincts between 3 am and 6 am; a 12 per cent reduction in hospital admissions of ocular bone fractures in Greater Brisbane; and, importantly, at least one serious crime, including rape and grievous bodily harm, solved per week across Queensland using ID scanner data. I look forward to working with all of the stakeholders in relation to the recommendations in that report.

Unfortunately, time does not permit me to outline all of the strong initiatives provided by the Department of Justice and Attorney-General, but I am committed, just like everyone on this side of the House, to continue every day to deliver for all Queenslanders. I thank the members of the committee and the members who sought leave to attend for their engagement in the budget estimates hearings. I thank the parliamentary staff, Hansard and my department and team, who all play their part to make estimates happen. I commend the report to the House.