



Speech By  
**Adrian Tantari**


**MEMBER FOR HERVEY BAY**

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Record of Proceedings, 13 May 2021

**PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT**

**Hervey Bay Electorate**

 **Mr TANTARI** (Hervey Bay—ALP) (2.41 pm): I rise to inform the House of some great news for the electorate of Hervey Bay with the recently awarded contracts to commence works on several schools across the Hervey Bay electorate. These building contracts include a new two-storey classroom block at Hervey Bay State High School, an upgrade to the administration block at Kawungan State School and the refurbishment of an existing teaching block at Pialba State School. This funding of over \$7 million will bring 20 extra jobs to Hervey Bay's hardworking tradies, meaning more dollars in our local economy. It is an example of the Palaszczuk Labor government's regional economic recovery plan in action, setting up Hervey Bay's future with new school infrastructure.

The electorate of Hervey Bay has a median age of around 49.2 years, meaning that the electorate is populated with many residents aged 65 years or over. Last weekend for Mother's Day, I had the pleasure of visiting several Hervey Bay aged-care facilities and meeting many wonderful mums for a chat. Unfortunately, the feedback I received from residents was a bit concerning and, quite frankly, alarming. They told me that the attention given by their carers was the best they could give, but there were just not enough of them to keep up with the needs of the residents. Residents were basically saying that the Morrison LNP federal government and the federal minister Keith Pitt, the member for Hinkler, were failing the needs of those who need them most in Hervey Bay. These are people, elderly people, who expect to be cared for in their later years.

Unfortunately, on federal budget night the LNP federal government, whilst finally doing something towards cleaning up their aged-care mess, did nothing to deliver better carer-to-patient outcomes for our most vulnerable seniors. By not having carer-to-patient ratios mandated in these non-government and private facilities, the hardworking carers in these aged-care facilities are being stretched to their limits. The solution is simple: mandate ratios. Ratios do work. They are achieving advanced outcomes in state run facilities because of the legislation implemented by this Palaszczuk Labor government.

What we saw from the Morrison LNP government budget on Tuesday was no immediate action taken towards the non-government and private aged-care sector. Most changes they announced are not coming until 2022-23, a year or more away. This is a direct contradiction of the recent royal commission into aged care that concluded that the Morrison federal LNP government's system was clearly broken and action must and should be taken immediately. The residents of private and non-government aged-care facilities in Hervey Bay need this care now.

The federal member for Hinkler, Keith Pitt's LNP government action on budget night is too little and way too late. We in the Hervey Bay electorate need action and we need it now. It is time the Morrison LNP federal government took responsibility and provided the same level of care that the Palaszczuk Labor government is delivering by putting people before profit.