



Speech By  
**Cynthia Lui**

**MEMBER FOR COOK**

---

Record of Proceedings, 24 February 2021


## **APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) (2020-2021) BILL**

### **APPROPRIATION (2020-2021) BILL**

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

##### **Appropriation (2020-2021) Bill**

##### **Community Support and Services Committee, Report**

 **Ms LUI** (Cook—ALP) (12.27 pm): I rise in support of the *2020-21 Budget Estimates, Report No. 2, 57th Parliament, Community Support and Services Committee*. It is an absolute honour and privilege to be part of the Community Support and Services Committee with the sole responsibility to examine this committee's first budget estimates for the 2020-21 financial year. Our committee held a public hearing on 15 December 2020 and took evidence on the proposed expenditure from, and I acknowledge, Minister Leeanne Enoch, Minister for Communities and Housing, Minister for Digital Economy and Minister for the Arts; Minister Craig Crawford, Minister for Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships; and Minister Leanne Linard, Minister for Children and Youth Justice and Minister for Multicultural Affairs. I acknowledge the committee chair, Corrine McMillan, committee secretariat and committee members for their valuable contribution to the estimates process.

The Palaszczuk government is committed to Queenslanders right across this state. That is reflected in the 2020-21 budget which sees record investment towards new and improved infrastructure and services to improve the safety and wellbeing of Queenslanders everywhere. We watched as this pandemic swept quickly across the globe. Queensland was ready. In Queensland we were not going to take anything for granted, as seen in our fast-acting health response putting us in a strong position towards economic recovery.

The arts sector was hardest hit. This government backed the arts by investing in the sector to create opportunities to support jobs. A sum of \$21.2 million was allocated towards the building of the new performing arts venue at the Queensland Performing Arts Centre and \$9.9 million to complete the renewal of the critical infrastructure assets at the Queensland Cultural Centre.

This government believes in people. Strong people make strong communities. Partnering with community organisations allows us to extend our reach to the most vulnerable by offering initiatives such as food rescue, school breakfast programs, goods donation services and emergency relief for food and essential household costs. Our \$1.5 million investment into 12 organisations is the reason that we are seeing Community Connect workers supported and \$1.7 million will support 15 neighbourhood and community centres.

Our world is fast advancing and technology is embedded in our everyday lives. This government understands that investment into the digital economy means that we have the skills for jobs now and into the future to support the digital economy and key industries across the state.

Housing is an essential need for all Queenslanders. This government is committed to housing and homelessness services that are responsive, integrated and accessible. Our Queensland Housing Strategy 2017-2027 allows Queenslanders the certainty for improved housing outcomes and it also guarantees employment opportunities for the future.

The total estimated expenditure for the Department of Communities, Housing and Digital Economy and the Arts is worth \$2.31 billion, which is a record investment to support struggling sectors, services and new and improved infrastructure. In Queensland we have many vulnerable groups among our First Nation people, seniors and people with disability. This government is absolutely committed to our most vulnerable with a total estimated expenditure worth \$2.820 billion. We have seen the dollars invested in upgrading, improving and modifying accommodation for people with an intellectual or cognitive disability. We are establishing the office accommodation and systems requirements to support the Meriba Omasker Kaziw Kazipa (Torres Strait Islander Traditional Child Rearing Practice) Act, which is important legislation that this government was courageous enough to back to give legal recognition to children adopted under traditional practice. We are developing programs and services for seniors to reduce the cost of living, enhance wellbeing, support community participation and prevent and address elder abuse.

We are large and we are diverse. We must do all that we can to support our young people who are engaging in unhealthy antisocial behaviours. As such, the \$86.5 million to staff and operationalise the new 32-bed West Moreton Youth Detention Centre or the \$5.7 million over four years for on-country programs in Mount Isa, Townsville and Cairns are all part and parcel of this government's commitment to the most vulnerable in our communities.

In closing, I thank all of the ministers for their hard work in supporting Queenslanders right across the state. I commend the bill to the House.