



Speech By  
**Julieanne Gilbert**


**MEMBER FOR MACKAY**

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Record of Proceedings, 12 May 2021

**MOTION**

**Federal Budget**

 **Mrs GILBERT** (Mackay—ALP) (4.44 pm): The harrowing stories uncovered by the royal commission into aged care are a national disgrace. Yet again the Morrison government falls short when it comes to addressing the real issues in relation to aged care. These are our much loved vulnerable Queenslanders, our family members. Canberra had the opportunity to accept all of the recommendations of the royal commission into aged care and fund them accordingly. Instead of backing our most vulnerable Queenslanders, yet again the LNP in Canberra choose to back themselves. What does the federal member for Dawson think is the most important thing in the budget? Mr Christensen says, 'The most important thing'—in the budget—'is the fact that \$270 billion is going to be spent on our nation's defence over the next decade.' We do not need him to start wars: we need Canberra to back health care, roads and infrastructure. I suppose when the media nicknames someone the 'Member for Manila' it shows that their priorities lie offshore.

I am the fifth generation of my family to live in regional Queensland, and I am really dismayed that those down south continue to pay lip-service to the regions. The Morrison government has chosen not to extend the National Partnership Agreement on Public Dental Services for Adults beyond March next year. This is a disgrace. Thousands of Queenslanders who cannot access private dental care, particularly those in the regions, will be much worse off. We know that poor dental care contributes to further health issues, which puts more stress on our public health system. Another way regional Queenslanders have been forgotten in Canberra's latest budget is the lack of foresight to address rising healthcare premiums. The member for Dawson went overseas and proudly said on Facebook that he went overseas because he wanted to jump the queue. That is okay when you have choices and money to burn, but they have forgotten those people who rely on the public health system.

Regional Queensland needs a budget that focusses on them. We need safe roads because that keeps people out of hospitals. What did we see from the federal government? At the election we committed \$100 million for Bruce Highway upgrades between Gladstone and Proserpine. We did not see the money that we asked for from the federal government.

*(Time expired)*