




Speech By
Ros Bates

MEMBER FOR MUDGEERABA

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MOTION

Federal Budget

 **Ms BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (4.59 pm): Those opposite wrote the book on playing the blame game. They absolve themselves from all responsibility and accountability when it suits them. This motion before the House today shines a stark light on that fact. You name it; they blame it.

What we are seeing today and what we have seen in recent media reports is those opposite softening up Queensland for a horror budget. Labor have clearly lost control of Queensland's finances just like they have lost control of Queensland Health. Those opposite have blamed anyone that they can point a finger at. In fact, we could say that the member for Woodridge has only one fiscal principle when it comes to his role as Treasurer and that is to blame the federal government. He is going to have to do a bit better.

I am delighted to see reports that the Commonwealth will invest heavily in mental health and women's health. These are two areas very close to my heart. Of course, that investment is on top of nation-building infrastructure projects across urban, regional and rural Queensland. We cannot question the Commonwealth's effort; they have put their hand in their pocket and done the heavy lifting when it comes to infrastructure investment and powering our economy throughout COVID.

It is now time for the Treasurer and his colleagues to put their money where their mouth is, particularly when it comes to the health portfolio. We know our health system here in Queensland is in big trouble. After years and years of mismanagement, the problems are coming home to roost and it is not a pretty picture. I will talk more on that tomorrow. I say to both the Treasurer and the health minister that now is the time to invest in our health sector but invest so there are meaningful outcomes.

In the last month those opposite have blamed the culture at Queensland Health; they have blamed COVID for their many and varied failings; they have blamed Campbell Newman, who has long been gone. Of course, finally, as we are seeing in this House here today, those opposite are blaming an old favourite; they are blaming Canberra for their shortcomings. They blame people for seeking medical treatment at a hospital. They blame the elderly, some of our most vulnerable Queenslanders, for taking up beds across our hospital network. It is time for those opposite to hold up a mirror. The blame rests at their feet. The Treasurer wants to talk about being ripped off. Queenslanders are being ripped off when it comes to being able to access timely care at our public hospitals. Soon there will be nobody left to blame.