



Speech By  
**Amy MacMahon**

**MEMBER FOR SOUTH BRISBANE**

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Record of Proceedings, 17 August 2022


## **APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL**

### **APPROPRIATION BILL**

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

#### **Appropriation Bill**

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

 **Dr MacMAHON** (South Brisbane—Grn) (4.00 pm): I rise to speak to the Community Support and Services Committee report on budget estimates for this year. The committees, guided by excellent secretariat staff, do an incredibly important job but, from all the hearings that the member for Maiwar and I attended, this was one of the most dispiriting. With portfolios like housing, disability services, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander partnerships, children, youth justice and multicultural affairs, this hearing on the final day of estimates covered some vital ground but I have to say this yearly window into the workings of the government did not reveal a heartening picture.

The government estimates process is a debacle. We see combative chairing and effort by committee members to minimise scrutiny of the government as much as possible. We see ministers who ensure that no question is answered properly. As for the Dorothy Dixers, the reality is that a huge amount of time in hearings is taken up by government backbenchers asking scripted, planted questions of the government. It is cringe-worthy and embarrassing.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Lui): The time allocated for the debate has expired.