



Speech By  
**Charis Mullen**


**MEMBER FOR JORDAN**

---

Record of Proceedings, 31 March 2022

**PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENT**

**Federal Budget**

 **Mrs MULLEN** (Jordan—ALP) (2.21 pm): I could not let federal budget week go by without summing up the Morrison government's efforts—and all brought to you by the letter 'D'. Firstly, what a disappointment this federal budget has been—no vision for the future of this country, no understanding of the critical reform that is needed in key policy areas or even the willingness to engage. From Queensland's perspective, it is beyond disappointing. It is dreadful how the federal government is treating the people of Queensland.

As the Premier said, a budget is about priorities. In Queensland, a state that grew by 40,000 through net interstate migration last year, it is about the health of our people, the infrastructure they need and supporting them in their hour of crisis. Queensland, along with every state government representing both sides of politics, has sought a fifty-fifty split for fairer health funding, given the rising demands on our health system. The Morrison government has not only ignored these calls but also now actively cut \$21 million from our hospitals in the next financial year, with another \$176 million cut over the forward estimates.

The request for a joint flood resilience package to allow families to move from flood zones or to raise their homes so they can build back better has also been ignored by this heartless government. If the federal government is holding back on giving money to flood victims because the timing does not suit their election campaign timelines then that would not only be despicable but downright disgusting.

I have a few more d-words. Scott Morrison says this budget contains \$3.3 billion for road and rail projects in Queensland, but, as the Treasurer has rightly pointed out, when we check the figures, there is only \$446.5 million across the four years of the budget. This is deceptive and begs the question: where is our funding, Mr Morrison?

In housing, one of the most critical issues facing our state, the federal government has made it very clear that they will not support social and affordable housing in this country. This was summed up by the Prime Minister's outrageous comments that the best way to support those who are struggling with increasing rents is for them to buy a house. The expectation that someone struggling to pay rent will be able to save and lay down a deposit on a house—regardless of what the percentage of that deposit is—shows just how delusional this government is.

Finally, I come to my favourite d-word of all, which is division. At a time when the Morrison-Joyce government should be uniting as they head into a federal election, the division and splits have never been more pronounced. We had veterans' affairs minister Andrew Gee launching a stunning attack on his own government, revealing he was on the cusp of announcing his resignation from cabinet because he was being refused funding for his department. Then there is one of the most accurate descriptions of the Prime Minister by someone who knows him best. Liberal Senator Concetta Fierravanti-Wells variously described the MP as 'unfit for office', an 'autocrat' and a 'bully' with no 'moral compass'. She even suggested Scott Morrison 'has used his so-called faith as a marketing advantage'.

The divisions are real, the disappointment, the deception and the delusion are there for all to see. There really is just one more word that comes to mind in regard to this federal government—

**A government member** interjected.

**Mrs MULLEN:** You are correct, member. They are duds!