




Speech By
Dr Christian Rowan

MEMBER FOR MOGGILL

Record of Proceedings, 30 March 2022

MOTION

Federal Budget

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (4.49 pm): I rise to address the motion. As this debate has gone on, you can hear the steam running out of this government. It is a lazy third-term government that clearly has no vision, no plan and no credible economic strategy for Queensland. There is always a diversionary tactic when they come into this place. It is only due to the economic leadership of the federal Liberal National Party government that we have been able to get through the economic instability that COVID-19 has caused. The federal government have had JobKeeper, JobSeeker and HomeBuilder, and it is only their vision and their commitment to Australia that has led to Queensland remaining on track.

This is a classic example of the Premier and the Treasurer here in Queensland always looking to blame someone else. As we heard the member for Everton say, whether it is the federal government, the former government here in Queensland, the New South Wales government or the Brisbane City Council, it is always someone else's fault when things are not going their way.

Let's have a look at the federal budget this year and some of those important measures which have been implemented and which will have benefits for Queenslanders: a new one-off \$420 cost-of-living tax offset which will benefit Queenslanders; an income tax exempt payment of \$250 for all eligible pensioners, veterans and eligible concession card holders—and that will be important for those vulnerable and disadvantaged groups; and substantial relief provided through the halving of the fuel excise, saving a family with two cars an average \$700 over the next six months—and that is very important cost-of-living relief for people not only here in Queensland but also across Australia.

Under the federal LNP government, funding for public hospitals in Queensland—the Labor government should listen to this—continues to increase. In fact, it is up 133 per cent since the LNP came into government. We will return to that a bit later. More than half a billion dollars will go towards slashing the price of medicines for more than 2.4 million pensioners by reducing the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme safety net threshold. The federal coalition budget also delivers an extra \$648 million for mental health treatment, early intervention, suicide prevention and an increased health workforce.

Under the Palaszczuk state Labor government we have seen a \$400 million cut for hospitals over the past three financial years. Do members remember when Labor announced a \$2 billion hospital building fund and they did not allocate a single cent?

Ms Pease interjected.

Dr ROWAN: Those members opposite who are interjecting should listen to this, because this has real impacts on Queenslanders.

Ms Pease interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Order, member for Lytton, your interjections are not being taken.

Dr ROWAN: We know that here in Queensland Labor's ambulance ramping is at record levels—at 38 per cent on average but more than 50 per cent in some areas.

I hear them talk about the AMA and AMA Queensland at times. I can tell them that when the past presidents are talking about this government and the real impacts on patients, what they are saying is that they have never seen anything worse than this government, but they do remember in the Beattie and Bligh Labor government years when there were clinical governance failures with the Patel saga back in 2005 and the Morris, Davies and Forster inquiries and reviews and all the things that had to take place; the \$1.2 billion payroll fiasco; and also the issues to do with the fake Tahitian prince. All of those issues were going on throughout that time.

I come back to the budget. I know that this motion is important, and it is important to put the facts on the table when it comes to the delivery that is occurring under the federal LNP government. The federal Morrison government is continuing to support local businesses with tax incentives. In education there is record schools funding under the Quality Schools Package, with funding increasing by over 32 per cent to 2029. The federal government has also announced more affordable child care, with an additional \$40 million in funding over the next four years for preschools.

We know here in Queensland that this government is failing on infrastructure spending and on service delivery. We only have to look at what happened during the floods in relation to my local area. When the Minister for Transport and Main Roads went out to visit Colleges Crossing, he did not come via Moggill Road, he did not come through the Kenmore roundabout—Labor is delaying that project—and he did not go via Mount Crosby Road; he got in the limo and headed straight out to Ipswich the other way, got a quick selfie and left, because there is no infrastructure investment occurring in the western suburbs of Brisbane. Just look at the upgrade to the Centenary Bridge; it has been delay, delay, delay. There are projects delayed. There is no vision and a lack of infrastructure spending. This Queensland government is failing on health, on education and on road and public transport delivery, let alone everything else it needs to do for Queenslanders. Rather than blaming other people, they should look to their own backyard.