



Speech By  
**Christopher Whiting**

**MEMBER FOR BANCROFT**


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**APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL**

**APPROPRIATION BILL**

**REVENUE LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Mr WHITING** (Bancroft—ALP) (3.43 pm): I rise to speak in support of this very strong budget that delivers greater services and a better lifestyle to all Queenslanders. I start by saying I am wearing a Redcliffe Hockey Club tie today to mark the 90th anniversary of our hockey club.

**Ms Boyd** interjected.

**Mr WHITING:** I am not taking your interjections! I specifically want to deal with what the Leader of the Opposition said yesterday. Despite talking for nearly an hour, he offered no solutions to the supposed problems he identified—no solutions. He offered no solutions to the people whose tragic stories they farm for political effect. For them, they offer no solutions. They offer some hope to lure them in and share their stories, but they leave them with no solutions after they have finished with them—no solutions.

The Leader of the Opposition talks a big game on health, but what did they offer? He offered real-time data, but they have never explained how that would actually help a kid in the emergency department at Caboolture with a broken arm. 'Dad, my arm feels sore. Just wait, son. I will go online and see what the waiting times are at Caloundra or Prince Charles.' Explain how this helps.

They offered better resourcing for triage. What does that mean—faster decision-making or action to actually fix people's problems? We are actually implementing the solution to fix people's problems. We are putting on 9,450 staff in Queensland Health over the next four years. We are bringing on a massive expansion of beds—2,200 overnight beds, as we have heard. Caboolture Hospital is being doubled in size, and that is a \$400 million project. Redcliffe Hospital is being redeveloped to the tune of \$1.06 billion. From the LNP, there were no solutions. They have offered to 'resource' the hospitals, but that is a solution we are already implementing.

Do you know what word the Leader of the Opposition barely mentioned? He barely said the word 'COVID' yesterday. I think the only time he said it was to imply we were using it as an excuse. This is a pandemic which is the biggest disruptor to our health system. They can barely admit it exists. They can barely say the word 'COVID'. Not only do they not offer any solutions; they do not even recognise what the biggest problem is. As I said, they offered no solutions.

The LNP have no solution on the issue of youth offenders. The Leader of the Opposition said they wanted to 'get kids back on the right track'. The only solution they have offered is a 'breach of bail offence'. As we know, it has been tried by the LNP before and it does not work. I will tell you what a real solution is: programs like Skilling Queenslanders for Work. This budget has secured ongoing funding for this ground-breaking program.

I have seen how this program turns around the lives of young people in Deception Bay. We invest in training people; we do not marginalise them or talk them down. The solution we know is working in depth with whole families in a community, training them and giving them the skills to remain in the workforce. We have worked this way for over 25 years with families and young people in Deception Bay. The solution is lots of workers on the ground, working all hours, gaining the trust of kids before we start working on issues throughout their family such as schooling, training, counselling and financial skills. That is how you do that, and we are doing that. That is the solution—but the LNP have no solutions.

They have no solutions for the gender pay gap. Hang on: the Leader of the Opposition seriously talked about a gender pay gap—the LNP, the party with the biggest gender gap in Australian politics! Did the Leader of the Opposition not notice that he was surrounded by 24 men and six women? Did he not remember he had to turf out a woman to get his own job? No-one is talking about Verity's economic security now, are they? What is his solution for equal pay for women? Someone will get an extra job in cabinet. That is really going to fix the structural disadvantage inherent in our society! They have no solutions.

I am going to finish by saying that this budget comes from a team that delivers solutions. This budget delivers good jobs, better services and a great lifestyle. I commend the bills and the budget to the House.