




Speech By
Hon. Grace Grace

MEMBER FOR MCCONNELL

Record of Proceedings, 25 October 2022

MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Federal Budget

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (8.12 pm): Can I say that CommSec finally got it right but those opposite just do not like it. They do not like it that CommSec finally got it right. The economics that this state is generating under the Treasurer is absolutely extraordinary, and I pat him and this government on the back every time. I also back the Labor government federally because the budget they have just handed down is a great Labor budget. It attacks cost-of-living increases, child care, paid parental leave, medicines, housing and wages. It invests in our people, which is what Labor governments always do, and it is a responsible budget repair. It is solid, it is simple and it is sensible. It is exactly what the country needs after years of chaos under the LNP, which has absolutely nothing to show after a \$1 trillion debt. What has Australia got to show after 10 years of chaos and a \$1 trillion debt under the LNP? Absolutely nothing.

Do we know what the icing on the cake is? The great news for workers everywhere is that the policy of deliberately keeping wages low is no longer a Labor federal government policy. That is one outstanding thing of this budget. As the federal Treasurer said, we are in a time of great challenge and change so this is a responsible not reckless budget. The family friendly budget, as the Prime Minister put it, delivers on Labor's commitments. It strengthens the economy. It provides cost-of-living measures for families without putting pressure on inflation. It delivers on the \$5.4 billion promise to make child care cheaper for 1.2 million families at a time when cost-of-living pressures are at their highest. It delivers on the promise for the biggest expansion to paid parental leave since it was introduced, with \$530 million which will lead to greater equality and greater security for Australian workers and parents being accommodated when it comes to paid parental leave. We will have cheaper medicines from 1 January next year, benefiting 3.6 million people.

This is what Labor governments deliver. They do not dillydally around like the LNP, fighting amongst each other. The LNP are experts at that. Those opposite do not even meet as a shadow cabinet. The member for Toowoomba South was talking about the Treasurer and the Premier speaking, but they cannot even meet as a shadow cabinet let alone talk to each other. It is extraordinary they would even raise the issue. Other highlights include the attack on housing. The government is looking at housing, with a new national housing accord between governments, investors and industry to build one million affordable homes. The LNP completely abandoned housing in this country.

There is free TAFE and more university places. We will have cheaper and cleaner energy. Finally, we have a \$20 billion energy plan to meet what the Palaszczuk Labor government is doing with our Energy and Jobs Plan. There is \$1.7 billion to end violence against women and children; that is a step in the right direction. There is \$1.2 billion in practical measures to close the gap for First Nations people and communities and to begin preparations for a referendum on a voice to parliament. This is what Labor governments deliver.

I am proud to stand up every single day and back the fresh air that is coming through the windows down in Canberra under an Albanese Labor government with their investment in education and early childhood, compared to the awful LNP government before them. The budget also invests more than \$770 million for better schools, happier and healthier students, and more qualified teachers. The other great initiative is an extra 4,000 university places for teachers and educators, including around 1,470 early education teachers. This is a great Labor budget.