



Speech By  
**Jimmy Sullivan**

**MEMBER FOR STAFFORD**

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Record of Proceedings, 22 August 2023


**APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL**

**APPROPRIATION BILL**

**Consideration in Detail (Cognate Debate)**

**Appropriation Bill**

**Education, Employment and Training Committee, Report**

 **Mr SULLIVAN** (Stafford—ALP) (4.26 pm): I rise to speak in support of the estimates committee report from the Education, Employment and Training Committee. I cannot believe that I follow the member for Clayfield, who talked about the Education, Employment and Training Committee with no self-awareness given that in this chamber he is the person most responsible for the sacking of 14,000 public servants, including TAFE teachers. You do not improve education and training results in this state by sacking TAFE teachers. In terms of Skilling Queenslanders for Work, we had many questions on the day—

**Mr McDonald** interjected.

**Mr SULLIVAN:** I heard that, mate. Well done. You do not improve results for Queenslanders, from an individual or an economic point of view, by cutting Skilling Queenslanders for Work, which is what the member for Clayfield did as Treasurer. Then, as opposition leader, he took to the election a commitment to cut it again. I see all the Tories coming to openings and graduations for Skilling Queenslanders for Work, slapping themselves on the back, yet they refuse to admit to their own communities and to my community that they cut it to start with and they would cut it again. That is their form.

In terms of the Education, Employment and Training Committee estimates hearing, I want to thank the ministers for their genuine contributions. I am really proud of the infrastructure that has gone into my beautiful electorate, including at Wilston State School and recent upgrades to Wavell Heights State School as well as at Kedron, Stafford Heights and many more schools. I thank them for that. I was going to thank the chair but I probably have a complaint to make. For questions, we received half the amount of time that those opposite received. I will take that up with the member for Redlands later. She is a very good chair. If those opposite were genuine, I am sure they would admit that she did a very good job and provided those opposite with ample time for questions. Perhaps they need some assistance with writing their questions.

We saw on the day with the member for Kawana—and we saw it again today when he doubled down on it in his contribution to the debate on the Education, Employment and Training Committee report—why the LNP had to instigate ‘Operation Boring’. His own party had to try to pull him away from

public statements because of the disrespect that he showed to the chair and the disregard that he showed to anything to do with education and training, which would have been an embarrassment should school students come here and see him perform. It is embarrassing. We understand. Some of us actually remember that the LNP not only instigated 'Operation Boring' but then leaked it to the paper so that everybody else knew about 'Operation Boring'.

I feel sorry for some of my fellow committee members—namely, the deputy chair and member for Southern Downs and the member for Theodore. I think the deputy chair had one question, and I do not think the member for Theodore asked any questions on the day. I understand how this works. I have been at estimates from different perspectives: as staff of the now Premier as opposition leader asking questions; at the front table serving the then attorney-general; and now as an MP asking questions. I get it. If those members were passionate about this portfolio—a crucial portfolio to Queenslanders—they would ask a question. If members of the leadership team on the other side cared at all about their members who work day in and day out on the committee, they would let them have a go. Not only did those poor fellows not get a question on the day; they have now been bumped down the speaking list and cannot even contribute to this debate today. That is the disrespect those opposite show to their own MPs and to this portfolio. It is not good enough.

I thank the chair for her work and thank the ministers and their teams for their genuine efforts on the day and in our ongoing interactions. I thank both ministers, who have visited Stafford on several occasions. I thank them for their ongoing partnership. I ask them to pass on my thanks to their ministerial teams and their departmental teams as well as, of course, the statutory bodies such as TAFE, Racing Queensland and so on who again participated in a fulsome way on the day and continue to work with them very closely. For the parliamentary staff and Hansard it is a hectic couple of weeks—it is a couple of weeks; it is not two days like it was in our opposition days—so I thank everybody involved behind the scenes who make it happen.