




Speech By
Joseph Kelly

MEMBER FOR GREENSLOPES

Record of Proceedings, 16 June 2023

APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL; APPROPRIATION BILL; REVENUE LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

 **Mr KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (4.32 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the debate on the budget. Given the role I currently fulfil in our parliament, my speech will be a little less combative than the contributions that I have made during previous debates. I hope that members on all sides will accept my contribution without too much interjection. I am sure that those of you who have gotten to know me will know that I have not lost my passion, but instead I am currently directing it towards ensuring we have an orderly chamber where all members have the opportunity to properly represent their communities.

To that end, I wanted to make a few remarks about what this budget means for my community. When I knock on doors, speak to people at bus stops or meet people at community events, the conversation often turns to cost-of-living pressures. There are a number of measures in this budget that will assist people in my community through these difficult times. The energy rebates will be particularly welcomed and will not only ease pressure on household budgets, but they will inject cash into the economy in a way that will not necessarily contribute to inflation. This rebate will be particularly welcomed by the many people who live in social housing. The students and the pensioners who live in Coorparoo and Stones Corner will find these useful, as will families who live in Camp Hill and Mount Gravatt. As a nurse, I am particularly pleased with the support that is being offered to final year nursing students. This will not only assist to ease cost-of-living pressures, but it will ensure we have nurses moving to regional and rural communities.

It was extremely pleasing to have the Premier and Treasurer last week visit Harty Street kindy, and I give them both full marks for their rainbow colouring in efforts. I am quite surprised that we got the Treasurer to put down the toy dinosaurs and come back to deliver the budget. He seemed very happy there. Harty Street is a fantastic community kindy which is turning 70 this year, and what better way to celebrate than enabling more kids to experience the benefits of kindy. This does not just ease cost-of-living pressures. We know from research that the earlier children start formal education and the longer they stay engaged, the better their overall health outcomes will be over a lifetime. This will be a huge boost for future generations of Queenslanders. I can only imagine how great our state will be when Harty Street kindy turns 100.

My community is benefiting from the Big Build. The PA Hospital is adding 149 beds; we are building velobridges over O'Keefe Street; and Cross River Rail construction is well advanced. There is more money in the budget to continue the building projects at Holland Park State High School. A manual arts block, a health hub, a hospitality hub and a year 7 precinct are being rolled out. I am excited about the investments being made at Easts Rugby Union and the Holland Park Sports & Community Club. Easts is an incredibly successful club and only a few years ago I spoke of its clean sweep of the Brisbane club Rugby championship and the Australian club Rugby championship. The club has done much to increase participation amongst women and amongst people with disabilities. This Big Build

funding will help to improve facilities so that all of these new 'Tigers for life' will be able to access the sporting facilities. Holland Park Sports & Community Club is putting up lights so that bowlers can keep going at night. This club is embedded in the heart of Holland Park and the club is a hub for a whole range of community activities, including a recent reconciliation walk organised by the Greenslopes Reconciliation Action Group—a group I am pleased to have played a role in starting with the help of local people.

I am delighted to see funding for indelibilityarts—a wonderful organisation with a mission of providing professional artistic training opportunities for artists and community members who identify as disabled or neurodivergent.

Ms Fentiman interjected.

Mr KELLY: I take that interjection. I know the minister will be equally pleased about the funding that has helped to see classical music station 4MBS celebrate the 2023 Festival of Classics—the 30th anniversary of this iconic event featuring 30 concerts in 30 days.

As the chair of the Mental Health Select Committee, I am also pleased to see that Stepping Stone Clubhouse is receiving more funding to start a new clubhouse on the north side of the river. I certainly was not happy to see the NRL licence go north of the river, but I am very thrilled that our proud Coorparoo community organisation, Stepping Stone, will be providing even more support for people who are living with mental illness. I am also glad that the World Wellness Group, in partnership with the Caxton Legal Service, has been funded to continue their health justice program. This is a remarkable innovation program started by Jasmine Prasad.

In the health sphere, I am very hopeful that Legacy Brisbane will soon be at home near Greenslopes Hospital, the home of veterans' health in Queensland and supported by all levels of government. I have also been advocating for the last seven years for the Gallipoli Medical Research Foundation to receive funding for veterans' health research. I hope they take advantage of the veterans' health research fund that has been established.

My community is deeply concerned about climate change. The Energy and Jobs Plan has been welcomed, and so will be the funding for pumped hydro that is in this budget as part of the Big Build.

Locally, I was pleased to see the Ukrainian community of Queensland and the Coorparoo Bowls Club receiving sustainability grants so that they can transition to renewable energy.

While doorknocking recently I met a woman named Avril who lives in social housing. She had escaped domestic violence and completed a Skilling Queenslanders for Work program at a local organisation. I am pleased to say that Avril now has a job in a local café. Meeting Avril, knowing the organisation that she now works for, knowing the organisation she was trained by, knowing that she has good, dignified housing makes me proud to be part of a Labor government.

All of the things that I have described mean more jobs for Queenslanders, and more jobs for Greenslopes. I am on record in this place many times talking about my passion for jobs. In fact, that is why I am known as 'Job Kelly'. I would like to thank the Treasurer—

Mr Dick: It is worse than 'Surplus-saurus'.

Mr KELLY: I take that interjection. Nothing is worse than 'Surplus-saurus'! I thank the Premier and the Treasurer for this budget. I am proud to represent my community. Whatever role I am privileged to have here in this chamber and parliament, I will always count representing my community as my No. 1 and most important job.