



Speech By


Joseph Kelly

MEMBER FOR GREENSLOPES

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MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Cost of Living; Community Support

 **Mr KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (2.26 pm): I want to assure this House and the people of Greenslopes that members on this side of the House are united, we support the Premier 1,000 per cent and we are focused on serving our communities. We are focused on creating a Queensland we can all be proud of. When people in my community talk about fear and hope, they fear that mob ever getting back in and they hope it never, ever happens.

I recently shared 30 days of social media posts highlighting what the recent state budget means for my community and for building my community. It was 30 days of highlighting things that are making a real difference in my community. Imagine if the LNP had tried to do that during their mercifully short time in government. It would have gone like this: day 1, let us build a big building for ourselves; day 2, crickets; day 3, crickets. I will not go on but we know where day 30 ends: crickets. Imagine if instead of posting our positive messages I had spent my time each day posting just another message about the damage these guys did the last time they were in office. I would have needed a lot more than 30 days.

Ms Pease interjected.

Mr KELLY: We would have 30 days just in Lytton. This year's budget tackled the No. 1 problem on the minds of people in my community—and that is cost of living. This included: free kindy; electricity rebates; energy efficient appliance rebates; and support for nursing students—something I am very happy about. We are tackling those issues. The Premier and the Treasurer know this is a big challenge for Queensland, and that is why we are taking real action to help Queenslanders.

What did the LNP do about the cost of living the last time they were in government? It is pretty hard to respond to the cost-of-living pressures when you are sacked, when your income is cut out from underneath you and when your electricity prices go up by 43 per cent. On our side of the House, we build community by investing in business and training. I am really proud of the Skilling Queenslanders for Work programs that are running in my electorate at Vision Australia, at Career Employment Australia and at the Institute of Culinary Excellence. I see graduates from those programs right here in Parliament House.

Guess what those on that side of the House did? They cut Skilling Queenslanders for Work. There are so many business basics grants in my electorate that I had difficulty contacting every person who received one, but they all said the same thing: 'These grants are helping my business to grow and helping me to employ people.' I can tell the House what damage those folk on the other side did. It is pretty hard to trade through that when thousands and thousands of people are sacked causing damage to the economy.

If you are going to build community, you better back community groups. If I look at the 30 days, I can see organisations like Lifeline, Kids Helpline, Stepping Stone Clubhouse, the World Wellness Group, BestLife Foundation, the Woodturners Society of Queensland, indelabilityarts, Share the Dignity and 4MBS Classic—all receiving help and assistance. What did the LNP government do to community groups last time they were in power? They defunded them and they gagged them.

Let's get onto education because if you are going to build community, you have to invest in education. I will not go through the list, but Whites Hill State College and Holland Park State High are getting \$30 million of investment. That is on top of all the investment that has gone into every other school in my electorate. The last time the LNP were in government, they did not build anything; in fact, we got a negative-one school, really, because they announced a hall at Cavendish Road High School and then Campbell Newman took it away and moved it over to Ashgrove. That was a negative-one. If you went a little bit further than just my electorate, it would be a negative-a-lot-more because they actually shut schools.

Coorparoo Bowls Club, Easts Rugby Club, Holland Park Bowls Club—we are investing in sports infrastructure. There is investment in Cross River Rail. If the opposition had been in government, we would not have the Olympics because we would not have Cross River Rail. I could spend another five minutes talking about the damage they did in health. However, we are increasing capacity at QEII and we are increasing the capacity at PA Hospital.

People have a clear choice. They have a choice for a Palaszczuk Labor government that is creating the Queensland that we all believe in, working hard every day for the people here, or they can vote for an LNP that is going to sack, cut and sell. They have no policy. They just want to do light cuts and they want to cave in on mining royalties and they will not explain how they are going to pay for anything. The choice is clear.

(Time expired)