



Speech By  
**Darren Zanow**


**MEMBER FOR IPSWICH WEST**

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Record of Proceedings, 21 August 2024

**APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL**  
**APPROPRIATION BILL**  
**Consideration in Detail (Cognate Debate)**  
**Appropriation Bill**

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

 **Mr ZANOW** (Ipswich West—LNP) (6.24 pm): I rise tonight to speak about the estimates process for the Education, Employment, Training and Skills Committee—the first one I have done. Thank you to my colleagues, the member for Southern Downs for his guidance and also the member for Miller. The estimates process takes a lot of staff time and effort. We must give thanks to them as well.

The committee agree with the passing of the 2024-25 budget, but, obviously, there are clear limitations. I will step through a few of those. At the conclusion of nearly a decade in office and at the end of the first four-year parliamentary term, the government has failed to provide reassurances that its policies are meeting the significant challenges that face this state—the cost-of-living crisis, the housing crisis, the crime crisis and, of course, the health crisis. One need go no further than Ipswich West to see all these crises in action.

We know that education is critical to addressing a lot of these concerns. In the estimates process I was very disappointed to hear that asbestos management in Queensland schools remains of serious concern to teachers, parents and even students—specifically, asbestos in our schools. We have known about asbestos for a long time and it should have been addressed long before now. For instance, Leichhardt State School in my electorate has cracked asbestos sheeting in its classrooms which has been observed. Also at Leichhardt, the library is breaking in half. They have buildings moving. They are in serious need of repair.

We turn our attention then to Rochedale State School. The minister has not met with parents and has not even committed to meeting with parents impacted by the asbestos incident there. Questions have been asked in relation to the reimbursement of costs for the stationery packs and the student items that were discarded due to the asbestos contamination. The fact that only \$150 was offer to replace stationery packs that actually cost \$250 meant that the Rochedale State School P&C had to come up with \$12,000 to assist. That is a disgrace.

On 19 March, when an important meeting was being held between Department of Education representatives and parents about the asbestos incident, the Minister for Education and the director-general were prioritising entertainment over education by attending the Pink concert. They were too busy 'getting the party started'. That is absolutely disgraceful.

Then we moved on to employment and small business. Despite the impact of crime being a major concern for all Queenslanders and small businesses, the minister was unaware of the number of small businesses that have been affected by crime. This is information that is available from the QPS website. There are a number of businesses in Ipswich West that have recently been impacted by serious crime—ram raids, smashed windows, you name it. All of their insurance premiums are going through the roof.

We heard about that earlier from the member for Nanango. A lot of businesses are either not renewing their policies or not claiming on their policies for fear premiums are going to go up even more. The minister even suggested the availability of \$5,000 in business basics grants could be used to upgrade CCTV equipment. However, in our view, that is woefully inadequate.

Let us talk about training and skills development. TAFE delivered training to 144,000 students in 2023-24—about 14 per cent up on the previous year. TAFE teacher and tutor numbers only increased by 146—a rate of increase that is well below the increase in student numbers in percentage terms. Now what are they doing? Overtime. What are we going to do to fix this? There is nothing provided whatsoever. They say, 'We will spend more money on sponsorship—\$7 million.' What about more teachers? I think the only way to fix this is to show Labor the door in 2024.