




Speech By
Hon. Shannon Fentiman

MEMBER FOR WATERFORD

Record of Proceedings, 14 June 2024

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Budget, Health; Comments of Minister for Health, Mental Health and Ambulance Services and Minister for Women

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Health, Mental Health and Ambulance Services and Minister for Women) (9.46 am): Over 77 years ago, Queensland became the first state in Australia to provide free health care to all. I am so proud to be part of a Labor government that continues to recognise public health care. It is a lifeline for people in their time of need, something that we will always fight to protect. That is why we are delivering a budget that provides for all Queenslanders, a record \$28.9 billion health budget. Sadly, yesterday there was not one new idea, not even one dollar, from the LNP when it comes to health, but the Miles Labor government will always prioritise Queenslanders getting health care closer to home, just like we will always prioritise the safety of women in Queensland—

Mr Head interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: The member for Callide is warned under the standing orders.

Ms FENTIMAN:—by funding domestic and family violence services—again, something that was completely missing from the LNP's budget reply. Those opposite failed to mention women's safety at all in their budget reply. That is not surprising, because, as the Attorney-General said earlier this week, the opposition spokesperson for domestic and family violence prevention did not mention domestic violence at all during the month of May on her social media. The Miles Labor government has listened—

Mr Miles: Domestic violence month?

Ms FENTIMAN: That is right: the month of May is Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Month—I take that interjection from the Premier. She is just a little too busy, I think. The Miles Labor government has listened to women and girls—12,000 of them contributed to our Women and Girls' Health Strategy—and we are investing in their healthcare needs with our nation-leading \$1 billion Women and Girls' Health Strategy. That includes \$275 million to specifically address women and girls' health, chronic conditions, maternity care and sexual and reproductive health, and \$56 million to establish a dedicated sexual assault response service.

Yesterday there was absolutely no mention of women's and girls' health. Unlike those opposite, our investment in the future of women and girls in Queensland, with funding and policies that will make a difference, is so important to ensuring women's and girls' economic security. In fact, in his budget reply the only policy in which the Leader of the Opposition talked about supporting women was his plan to assist women back into the workforce. That is a really great initiative—and we have many of those initiatives in our Office for Women and in our strategy for women—but their plan is so woefully underfunded that it would only amount to \$1.50 a week given the number of women who would need support to return to the workforce. They say you can buy a laptop with \$1.50 a week. I do not know where they are buying their laptops, but I have not seen a laptop for sale for \$1.50 a week.

It has been brought to my attention that a post I made on social media on 18 April could have misrepresented proceedings in the House. In line with advice provided by the Leader of the House during his ministerial statement yesterday, it would have been more appropriate to say that the opposition voted against the bill on three occasions, which was substantially about the public ownership of energy assets. It was not my intention to mislead the House.

The Miles government values our investment in our public assets including our public energy assets, our public health system, our free ambulance service and our public health infrastructure. Only Labor can be trusted to put the money and solutions on the table to keep the public ownership of our energy and our health assets, and our ambulance service free for all Queenslanders.