




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR GREENSLOPES

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**APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL; APPROPRIATION BILL; HEALTH,
ENVIRONMENT AND INNOVATION COMMITTEE, REPORT**

 **Mr J KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (4.52 pm): I was the victim of much love in question time from the Minister for Health this morning. I think he was trying to butter me up because he knew that I was going to hand down the report card on the health budget today. It is just not going to work. I have to give special mention and special marks to Premier Crisafulli: last year, when the member for Woodridge handed down the budget, he gave it a full endorsement without reading a single line. This year, when the member for Toowoomba South handed down the budget, no such endorsement was forthcoming. Quite frankly, now that I have read the budget I completely understand why.

I will start with health. Here comes the report card. I am afraid it is three Cs—C for cuts, C for cover-ups and C for culture wars. Premier Crisafulli said that when he says something it means something. I can tell members that it actually means nothing. This is a budget of broken promises. It promised transparency and accountability, but all we got were cuts, cover-ups and culture wars. They promised to fix ramping. Well, if you are going to fix ramping you have to build hospital beds.

What we saw in estimates was an enormous amount of wiggling out of promises to deliver infrastructure projects on time and on budget. In fact, multiple HHS CEOs were unable to provide basic information about projects in their HHSs such as the start and the finish dates of those projects. Are we seriously supposed to believe that these highly paid CEOs had no idea about the delivery dates for major infrastructure projects that are part of their services? I have no doubt that these hardworking public servants were telling the truth. That is just shows that they are being kept in the dark by the LNP. It is all part of the great LNP infrastructure cover-up. If the CEOs cannot answer these questions, how serious is this government about these projects? How can the CEOs plan these projects coming online if they have no idea—and, seemingly, little curiosity—about the start and finish dates of these projects? We walked away from estimates with no certainty about what projects would be delivered. How can you fix ramping if the CEOs cannot even name a date for when the projects would be completed so you can start planning?

Of course, we did find out about one service—that is, the spinal injuries service, which, shamefully, has no funding in this budget. What we did learn is that over 84 per cent of the 3,000 people in hospital with the flu are unvaccinated. That is shocking in and of itself. Even more shocking is the fact that the government spent three times more on promoting themselves than on promoting flu vaccination. They are more serious about self-promotion than health promotion. Is this incompetence, or is it just part of the culture war that saw the Premier and Deputy Premier dancing around trying to avoid publicly endorsing vaccination as an effective public health measure? I hope not, but when I see those anti-vaccination red incorporated associations giving the health minister a hard time at the LNP conference, what other conclusion can I draw?

The Queensland Women and Girls' Health Strategy was not safe. It seems there are no plans to commence publicly funded IVF for women with cancer. The LNP promised to fix rural maternity services.

How is that going? Not so well in Biloela, according to the ABC last week—not real well when you cut the Workforce Attraction Incentive Scheme. The member for Callide gets an A—no, let's make it an A-plus—for yelling out at the top of his lungs about rural maternity services, but he sits silent when this measure is cut. This measure would have gotten health professionals into rural communities to deliver safe maternity services. The cuts to pill testing and the gender clinic service suggest that this health minister is focused on keeping the looney right of his party happy—

Mr HEAD: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I believe I was personally named. I take personal offence and I ask the member to withdraw.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Whiting): I will get some advice. Member for Greenslopes, if you did refer to the member for Callide, I ask you to withdraw.

Mr JKELLY: To assist the House, I withdraw. I am going to downgrade him. That is not an A-plus. He is going to get a C, like the rest of them! This budget gets three Cs—C for cuts, C for cover-up and C for culture wars—and let me chuck in a C for Callide as well.

The other portfolio areas did not do much better. Despite climate science being part of the minister's portfolio and charter letter and despite him being willing to answer questions, there was a protection racket run by the Leader of the House, the committee chair and the other members. I could not even get a question out—they took a point of order before I had even finished the question. When you see the motions that were carried at the LNP conference, you now know why they do not want us to ask questions about net zero or climate change. Science got no funding, innovation got no funding and First Nations tourism got shut down. I think the words of the member for Cairns around the 20-year tourism plan being '45 pages of glossy pictures' were pretty accurate, as far as I was concerned. He was giggling throughout because, quite frankly, this budget for tourism was a joke.

(Time expired)