



Speech By  
**Dr Christian Rowan**


**MEMBER FOR MOGGILL**

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Record of Proceedings, 22 August 2018

**APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL; APPROPRIATION BILL**

**Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence  
Prevention Committee, Report**

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (4.37 pm): I rise to address the recent budget estimates hearings for the Appropriation Bill 2018 and specifically that area of responsibility in consideration of the Palaszczuk Labor government's proposed expenditure by the Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee. I will also make some specific comments as they relate to my shadow ministerial responsibilities.

As I have indicated in previous years, the first issue I want to draw to the attention of the House is that of transparency and accountability with respect to the Palaszczuk Labor government. This year's estimates process could only be described as a farce, with Labor government committee chairs and Labor members of the various committees running a protection racket for Labor ministers. As the former Queensland Speaker and former Labor member for Logan, John Mickel, indicated, this year's process was really a 'protection racket' for Labor government ministers overseen by a generation of Labor parliamentarians unfamiliar with how the Queensland parliamentary estimates process is supposed to work.

There is no doubt that an all-party parliamentary review could recommend better public accountability processes, improve scrutiny and deliver enhanced governance mechanisms in the absence of an upper house here in Queensland. Many of the issues of dubious governance, failed public administration and unchecked Queensland government power over many years has resulted not only from the absence of an upper house but also from the use of a highly politically motivated and diminished lower house parliamentary committee process, although historically this is really a legacy of Queensland's first ALP government and our state's 28th Labor Premier, the Hon. Thomas Joseph Ryan.

During estimates this year, the Palaszczuk state Labor government continued to try to blame everyone else but themselves for their own failed public administration, such as letters being sent to dead people about transitioning to the NDIS but with information being based on inaccurate Queensland government data; the scathing findings of the Queensland Audit Office National Disability Insurance Scheme report; the debacle of FSG and the minister seemingly unaware until 3 May 2018 that FSG was in deep financial trouble despite substantial losses over many years being published in annual reports via the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission and with over 50 per cent of FSG's funding coming from the Labor state government; the politically motivated attempts to rename the Lady Cilento Children's Hospital; and various investigations in relation to health fraud in part due to a failed industrial relations system being managed under Labor.

The issue of the Lady Cilento Children's Hospital was raised by the health minister and canvassed widely in the media on the day. At the time of the official naming of the Lady Cilento Children's Hospital, the Australian Medical Association of Queensland gave its full support, and I table a copy of the photo for the benefit of the House.

*Tabled paper:* Photograph depicting doctors in front of Lady Cilento portrait [[1176](#)].

In that photo is Dr John O'Donnell, who is the former CEO of the Mater Health Services; paediatrician Dr Peter Steer, the then CEO of the Lady Cilento Children's Hospital; myself in my then capacity as AMA Queensland president and as a former president of RDAQ; Dr David Cilento, attending on behalf of the Cilento family; former federal AMA president and ophthalmologist Dr Bill Glasson; and Emeritus Professor John Pearn, a senior Queensland paediatrician and former surgeon-general of the ADF. Lady Cilento was awarded life membership of the Australian Medical Association in 1980, and I note the comments of the member for Caloundra in relation to outlining her distinguished professional career.

We all know that this Labor government's only economic plan is more taxes. In relation to health under Labor, emergency department access block is worsening and there are longer surgical waiting lists that are developing. The Palaszczuk Labor government's 2018 budget will damage Queensland via forecasted record debt. By 2021-22, as we have heard previously, debt in Queensland is projected to be over \$83 billion. It will be unsustainable to continue to fund record Health budgets without strong fiscal management. We have a health system that is struggling under Labor.

In recent times we have seen what is happening in relation to rural maternity services and those issues that have emerged at Chinchilla. Under the LNP we opened rural maternity services in both Beaudesert and Cooktown with further services to be reopened.

In my remaining time, I acknowledge the government's commitment to concessions for seniors. At the estimates process it was highlighted that many seniors in Queensland, many people who are pensioners and concession cardholders, do not know about these concessions for water, electricity, power and other things. It is very important that the government over the next 12 months ensures that those people right across Queensland—not only in my electorate of Moggill but also in many other electorates—know of those concessions and get access to them. I thank all members of the committee and acknowledge the Minister for Communities and Minister for Disability Services and Seniors for her attendance on the day as well as the committee secretariat.