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MEMBER: Mr LANGBROEK

 **Mr LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (2.33 pm): I rise to speak to the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill, the Appropriation Bill and the Duties and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. This week we have heard a lot of fancy words and numbers, as I mentioned yesterday in my private member's statement, but there are not a lot of fancy results from this budget. We have heard much from this side of the House about our concerns. The fact is that there have been many announcements about jobs, but of course unemployment continues to be a thorn in the side of this government. As we have heard from honourable members, increased unemployment is forecast in this budget and record low infrastructure spending is forecast. This is a budget that has debt increasing, notwithstanding the honourable Treasurer is trying to suggest that the debt that was incurred during our time in government was a continuation of the situation we inherited due to the forward estimates. This budget sees public service expenses increasing at six times the population rate and taxes and charges increasing at twice the inflation rate. It is really back to the bad old days of Labor.

I want to speak today about the portfolios that I am shadowing, Health, Ambulance Services and the Commonwealth Games, and also some Gold Coast specific issues which I will come to at the end of my presentation.

If we look at the budget papers for Health, at page 18 it shows that, rather than a predicted deficit of \$14.2 million, hospital and health services will have a deficit of \$99.6 million. These are the 16 hospital and health services that were set up under our term of government. It is a real concern that, when we have a record Health budget, 10 of the hospital and health services are running significant deficits notwithstanding that many of them received extra resources during the last financial year.

Many members will be aware of the fact that we did inherit a \$300 million deficit, as we heard last night from the former health minister, the member for Southern Downs. He turned that around into a surplus that is now being expended by this government. It is really important to understand that, when we hear about the government speaking about more resourcing, what we want to speak about on this side of the House—and what we showed in our term of government—is focusing on outcomes. When I was part of the Public Accounts Committee in my first two terms in this House in the 51st and 52nd parliaments we often spoke about the integrity, economy, efficiency and effectiveness of public sector spending. We have extended that in our term of government to talk about productivity and ensuring that we have better productivity outcomes as well. They are the things that we were able to achieve whilst we were in government.

I note that there are significant issues in the budget within the Health portfolio; for example, employment expenses going up by 5.71 per cent. With regard to the new fiscal standard that the Treasurer has spoken about, which is about increasing employees, we see at page 22 of the Service Delivery Statement for Health that in the last year the number of people employed in Queensland Health has gone from 75,442 to 79,625 which is an increase of 4,183. The fiscal standard that the Treasurer spoke about yesterday is now something that he said he wants to try to achieve as a balance over the course of time and not necessarily focus on, because of course in its first year we are not tying expenses growth to revenue growth as we see by those expenses going up. That is the same old standard we have seen from Labor in years gone by before we came to government in 2012: revenue going up by two to three per cent and expenses going up by seven to eight percent. That is something that cannot keep going. That is why we always focus on outcomes and making sure that, whilst we want to make sure we have enough revenue going into departments—and health and education will always have record budgets because we have an increasing population—it is also important to make sure that we do get those productivity increases which we were able to achieve whilst we were in government.

Some of those examples were specialist out-patients, commonly known as the waiting list for the waiting list. Despite the minister saying that he was targeting this area, I pointed out yesterday that the number of patients on the waiting list for the waiting list is expected to grow to 247,220 from 231,821 this year. In our term of government in the 54th parliament we were able to get that waiting list down to 228,000, and it had been increasing by up to 15 per cent year on year before that. Over the last year

the budget papers reveal: 39 per cent of category 1 specialist outpatients waited longer than the clinically recommended time; 50 per cent of category 2 waited longer than the clinically recommended time; and 26 per cent of category 3 specialist outpatients waited longer than the clinically recommended time. Similarly with elective surgery year. Yesterday we saw that the results to 1 March 2016 saw 4,290 people treated in category 1 elective surgery—the most urgent—and last year at the same time it was 4,799. There was little or no improvement in elective surgery in the other categories. Similarly in emergency wait times there was little or no improvement and yet they were things, as I will point out, that during our time in government we were able to make significant improvements in.

023 It is really important to understand that this budget does beg, borrow and steal. As I pointed out yesterday, Labor is trying to beg from the federal government. That has been the case ever since the election last year, whether in relation to light rail at the Gold Coast or Townsville stadium. Again today we saw the Deputy Premier trying to tell the federal government that it is imperative for them to come to the party. That has been the style of this government—to beg, borrow or steal. In this case it has been 'repatriating', the definition of which has been analysed by members on this side. The government is taking money out of the defined benefit scheme against the specific recommendations of the State Actuary. That is something that continues on from last year's efforts in relation to long service leave and ceasing contributions for up to \$2 billion into the defined benefit scheme. There is a limit to how long that can be done. We have heard that from other members. It is really important to make sure that we acknowledge that when we focus on the outcomes, whether in education or in health.

I want to clarify something I said yesterday. I spoke about the health minister's 33 mentions in 13 different contributions—ministerial statements, private members' statements, questions without notice, estimates hearings or legislation second reading debates. A number of times the health minister has berated the federal government, saying that their \$11 billion worth of cuts into the out years was going to affect Queensland. That was a proportion of the national spend that Kevin Rudd and Julia Gillard had supposedly put into the system but which was not in the forward estimates. In response to a question from the member for Caloundra, the then shadow minister for health, on 19 May 2015 the Minister for Health said—

Labor does not have to promise anything more because it is a Labor initiative that is delivering \$11.8 billion.

In this current federal election campaign, Bill Shorten, the federal opposition leader, last week said that he was not going to match the \$11.8 billion that our health minister had been saying should be coming back into the system. He promised \$2 billion for the whole of Australia. Our proportion of that would normally be about 20 per cent, and that is a long way from the \$11.8 billion that the health minister referred to on 19 May 2015. Again, he said—

Labor does not have to promise anything more because it is a Labor initiative that is delivering \$11.8 billion.

The federal opposition cannot even keep a promise they have made in opposition as part of an attempt to win government. I refer to the actual payments for specific purposes to Queensland in Budget Strategy and Outlook, Budget Paper No. 2, at pages 157 and 158. This was pointed out last night by the member for Southern Downs, the former health minister. Section 7.5.1, 'Structure of payments for specific purposes', on page 157 states—

Growth in National Health Reform (NHR) funding is stable at around 6.1% each year from 2017-18 to 2019-20.

That is just in health that this government will be receiving about 19 per cent more over those four years. Importantly, the promises made by Bill Shorten and the federal opposition all through the last term of the federal parliament have proven to be based on quicksand. When it comes to the crunch they will supposedly put \$2 billion into the system, whereas this government was holding the current federal government to account supposedly for \$11.8 billion. That needs to be called out for what it is. The health minister has said over the past couple of years that its pressure on the Turnbull government would be maintained all the way to the federal election. Now we hear nothing from the health minister about the fact that \$2 billion is a mere fraction of \$11.8 billion and that Queensland's share of that will be \$400 million.

I note that the health minister is yet to respond to a question on notice asked by the member for Morayfield. It is due to be answered by 24 June—a week from today. I expect that the tenor of the answer to that question on notice will be somewhat different given the different numbers that have been presented in the past week by the federal opposition.

Yesterday I mentioned that we have heard the fancy words from the government. They have criticised the federal government to try to scare Queenslanders into believing that the state has been neglected. The figures in their own budget papers show that a significant amount of revenue—19 per cent in Health alone over the next four years—is coming to this state. They have tried to blackmail the

federal government into coming to the party. I have also pointed out today that they have been using other people's money to spruik their economic plan.

I return to the issue of the hospital and health service deficits. I was proud to be the minister for education in the 54th Parliament. We championed autonomy for local schools. Similarly in Health, we gave hospital and health services the autonomy they needed to deliver local services and balance the books. As I have already mentioned, there is now nearly \$100 million in deficits by those hospital and health services. Ten out of 16 are running deficits, notwithstanding that they had been given significant extra revenue through the year. I want to go through those figures from the budget papers. A surplus under our government meant that the local hospital and health service could reinvest, through a better healthcare bonus, to enhance local front-line health services in line with local priorities. The reinvestment of those savings could reduce surgery waiting lists, expand statewide access for child health specialist services, upgrade clinical facilities and infrastructure and address local maintenance issues.

Last night the member for Southern Downs reiterated that there was a \$300 million shortfall when we inherited government and that at that stage Ambulance or Health would just go to Treasury and ask for more money. That meant that in Ambulance they were not dealing with the ramping issues or bypass issues. It was really important that we addressed the heart of the problem. The problem that was often happening in emergency departments was due to ambulance ramping and bypass. They are the things our government dealt with to make sure we could have those surpluses, better responses and better outcomes for patients.

Unfortunately, we now have centralised command and control back in Charlotte Street. As a result, those 10 hospital and health service boards are now running up deficits. In the Cairns Hospital and Health Service the 2015-16 estimated actual is a deficit of \$20 million; in Children's Health Queensland a deficit of \$5.8 million; in the Mackay Hospital and Health Service a deficit of \$7 million; in Metro North Hospital and Health Service a deficit of \$4.2 million; in Metro South Hospital and Health Service a deficit of \$22 million; in North-West Hospital and Health Service a deficit of \$7.8 million; in the Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service a deficit of \$7.1 million; in West Moreton Hospital and Health Service a deficit of \$8.1 million; and in the Wide Bay Hospital and Health service a deficit of \$14 million. That is what is actually happening in the hospital and health services. It is obvious that, whilst more money is going in, we are not necessarily getting better results. That means that Queenslanders are paying more and getting less. Our government was able to do significant things including make sure our nurses and midwives were paid more. That is something we have dealt with in the term of this parliament. They were almost 10 per cent better off in their pay packets, thanks to our government. We made sure there were more doctors and nurses. There were 801 doctors employed in public hospitals—

Mr Saunders: Not in my health district.

Mr LANGBROEK:—after Labor's last full year in office and more than a thousand nurses—no matter what those opposite say. We also had faster and more modern ambulances. We added 397 new and replacement ambulances since March 2012, we dealt with ambulance ramping and bypass issues - we made sure that, rather than having patients dying after being shuttled from hospital to hospital, there was an end to ramping and bypass - and we provided funding for another 100 front-line staff.

As I have said, we dealt with waiting lists. We see those figures already slipping back under this Labor government. In our term, 97 per cent of category 1 patients requiring urgent surgery were seen on time, compared with just 86 per cent at the change of government from Labor to LNP. It is the same story for patients requiring semi-urgent surgery, with 86 per cent seen on time compared with 73 per cent at the change of government. The percentage of non-urgent patients who received surgery on time also improved, from 90 to 92 per cent.

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We also achieved shorter waits in emergency departments and a dental waiting list blitz. The long waits for dental were eliminated from over 60,000 to zero which ensured that people who needed that dental care got it. There was also a record investment for BreastScreen and more access for rural and regional patients. We doubled the Patient Travel Subsidy Scheme and we doubled the mileage subsidy.

Government members interjected.

Mr LANGBROEK: Those opposite do not like it, but it is true. That is what we were able to achieve using fiscal discipline to ensure that we could achieve the outcomes that Queenslanders wanted—not just a focus on more money, more money, more money. We ensured that we had the best focus on efficiency, economy and ensuring that there was integrity in all of our services. We improved

children's surgery times and we ended Labor's hidden waiting lists, many of which have now gone back to the bad old days of us not being able to find out exactly what is happening.

In my remaining time I want to speak about the Commonwealth Games. It has also been disappointing this week that of the 32 new bureaucrats employed in tourism only one of them is on the Gold Coast, yet literally that is where the bulk of the Commonwealth Games are going to occur. It is really important to ensure that there is a focus on the Gold Coast, acknowledging that in Tourism and Events and other departments there is going to be cross-coordination. However, the Commonwealth Games headquarters are in Ashmore in my electorate and it is important to ensure that there is appropriate representation on the coast.

In the Department of Transport and Main Roads I am concerned about a local issue that is very significant for residents. Whilst the former transport minister and the now shadow Treasurer, the member for Indooroopilly, announced the widening of Bundall Road, it has been of great concern to all, and I am very appreciative to the transport minister that my office can engage directly with the local office—the regional office—of DTMR and not have to put all inquiries through his office. A number of residents in Rapallo Avenue at Isle of Capri have expressed concerns, which I certainly share, about the widening of Bundall Road opposite the Sorrento shopping centre where it has been widely publicised that there were constituents of mine who were unhappy about having their houses resumed. It now turns out that at what we thought was going to be a park in that area there is going to be an access road to enable people to turn right down Via Roma across the Isle of Capri. That is not something that those eight residents envisaged—that is, that they are now going to have a road opposite them instead of a park. That was in spite of the member for Mermaid Beach, the member for Southport and a number of Gold Coast members making the point that it was of great concern to their electorates and to commuters on the coast that, whilst the intersection at Ashmore Road and Bundall Road should be straightened, the best long-term plan would be a flyover. However, DTMR said that we did not need to do that, but no-one envisaged a road where there was supposed to be a park.

Ongoing issues about law and order on the coast will bedevil this Labor government all the way to the next election. The winding back of gang laws and rolling out the red carpet for criminal gangs and the cruise ship terminal will continue to be big issues on the Gold Coast. Lockout laws, which will be put into place in just a couple of weeks and then next February, will also affect tourism numbers and small businesses. Other issues such as unsafe practices of scooters on sidewalks mean that I will continue to represent on behalf of my electorate one of the best parts of the Gold Coast in the best state in Australia.