



**BERT VAN MANEN MP
FEDERAL MEMBER FOR FORDE**

CID - Finance

Deputy Speaker.

The Australian people are hurting.

They are hurting because of the inaction and failure of this Government to have a plan to help Australians with the cost of living crisis.

Interest rates have increased for the 11th time since this government took office.

Grocery prices are rising.

Fuel isn't going down.

Gas and electricity are increasing.

This budget is a big-spending, big taxing Labor Budget. You cannot spend your way out of a cost of living crisis.

At the last election the those opposite went to the people of Australia claiming that "Labor Cares". What they failed to inform the Australian public was that they only cared about feathering their own nests and beating their own chest.

It's been over twelve months since they have taken office and it's time the sleeves were rolled up and real action began.

The Finance Minister is too busy trying to get those 10 second grabs and to live out her best life as if it were a Tina Fey movie.

Enough is enough.



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Mortgage holders and renters have been dealt with the double blow of higher housings costs and surging increases to their grocery and energy bills.

Renters who are already struggling with a housing crisis, are forced to deal with higher rents - just to keep a roof over their head.

First home buyers are seeing their dream of ever being able to own a home slowly slip away - no matter how hard they save. One foot forward, two steps back.

The Australian dream is slowly becoming a fool's dream.

Currently, consumer sentiment and business confidence are both sitting at recessionary levels. NAB's monthly business survey along with Westpac-Melbourne Institute's consumer sentiment survey both showed that the household sector "remained exceptionally downbeat".

It was reported that "consumer sentiment had not been so low on a sustained basis since the early 1990s recession."

With the current trajectory under this Labor Government, it looks as though they are set to repeat history with astronomically impractical inflation rates. When Whitlam got elected in December 1972 inflation was 4.7%. By 1975 inflation had surged to 17.7%.

Deputy Speaker, the Australian people cannot afford this.

This government wants to celebrate its big spending Budget, however, they are ignoring the inflationary pain they are inflicting on everyday Australians – only increasing the chances of further interest rate rises.



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They are failing hard-working Australians at a time when they need a plan to address inflation and the cost-of-living crisis.

Community organisations in my electorate of Forde are seeing the impacts of this government's inaction and family budgets being put under immense pressure.

Over the last month, Lighthouse Care in Loganholme had over 500 families come through their doors requiring assistance. They have now increased their services to over 200 homes in my electorate and have noticed an increase in younger families as well.

Also, at the Twin Rivers Centre in Eagleby 95 families required emergency relief last month, which is up from 80 in April. This includes fuel relief, rental assistance, and support with groceries and medicines.

My questions to the Minister are:

After three separate quarters of inflation, why did the Government deliver a Budget that included \$185 billion of additional spending, rather than reducing spending to combat the out-of-control inflation?

With inflation out of control under Labor, why did the Government decide to remove the words "The immediate priority is to ensure fiscal policy is not adding to inflationary pressures and to begin budget repair" from the Budget's fiscal strategy?

After repeatedly criticising the Coalition for funding measure for a set period of time before a review or re-evaluation process, isn't it true that Labor's Budget does the exact same thing for policies including the Escaping Violence Payment, support



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families impacted by violence and at risk of engaging in the child protection system, funding the Australian Breastfeeding Association's National Breastfeeding Helpline, funding for Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder prevention, among many other?