



Speech by

**Mark Ryan**

**MEMBER FOR MORAYFIELD**

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## **EVERY DOLLAR COUNTS WEBSITE**

**Mr RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (12.18 pm): I rise to inform the House about a new website that will help Queenslanders access the rebates and concessions on offer from both the Queensland government and the federal government. The new Every Dollar Counts website is a one-stop shop for state and federal government concessions and makes it even easier for people to access the cost-of-living subsidies that they are eligible for. The Every Dollar Counts website is an initiative of the Queensland Labor government and is just another way that this Labor government is helping Queenslanders. Along with its nation-leading \$1.3 billion concession program, this Labor government is providing real assistance to Queenslanders who need a helping hand.

The Every Dollar Counts website hosts a comprehensive guide to concessions, retail discounts, rebates and assistance packages that are available to families, pensioners and Queenslanders. As you would be aware, Mr Deputy Speaker, Queensland has one of the broadest concession, rebates and discount programs in Australia and, accordingly, this website will help Queenslanders know which concessions and rebates are available to them. For instance, people buying their first home, saving for a rental bond, wanting to save money on their electricity bill, investing in solar panels or visiting some of our great museums, galleries or parks, should visit the Every Dollar Counts website. I encourage all Queenslanders to visit [www.qld.gov.au/everydollarcounts](http://www.qld.gov.au/everydollarcounts) or phone 131304 to find out what concessions and assistance are available to them from the Queensland Labor government.

The effects of the global financial crisis are still rippling through our community and this Labor government knows that people are still doing it tough. That is why this government is committed to one of the broadest concession programs in the nation and is also committed to keeping pressure down on cost-of-living issues. People in this House have heard me talk about my passion and commitment to the concept of a safety net, that principle of looking after people who are vulnerable, marginalised and disadvantaged in our community. Governments cannot be all things to all people, but we can certainly provide a helping hand where we can. This is one way that this Queensland Labor government is delivering that helping hand for Queenslanders.

Queenslanders will be interested to hear that there is a broad range of concessions and rebates available to eligible people. In fact, the range of concessions and rebates available to eligible Queenslanders is so extensive that many people will be surprised by the amount of information contained on the Every Dollar Counts website. I would like to run through some of those wonderful rebates and concessions which are available to Queenslanders and are listed on the Every Dollar Counts website. Some of those rebates and concessions were increased in the recent state budget and I would like to touch on them as well.

For instance, the increase to the electricity rebate of up to \$216 each year for eligible pensioners and seniors is one way that this Queensland Labor government is helping those people with cost-of-living issues. The water rebate has been increased up to \$100 each year for eligible pensioners. The council rates rebate has been increased up to \$180 each year for eligible pensioners and discounts on car registration fees and public transport fares remain available to those who are eligible for those concessions. The Queensland Labor government also funds the ClimateSmart Home Service, which

assists families and all Queenslanders with their electricity bills not only in terms of saving on their power bills but also in terms of making a contribution to saving our environment. There is also the Solar Hot Water Rebate Scheme, which provides up to \$1,000 to eligible households to install solar hot-water systems at their premises.

There are also some home and property rebates available to eligible people. There are bond loans and there is the RentConnect service, which is an outstanding service. I must acknowledge the wonderful contribution made by the RentConnect staff in the Morayfield state electorate. They provide a wonderful service and are providing real assistance to vulnerable people in the Morayfield community. There are also deposit assistance grants and other grants available to those people.

This government is committed to providing support for Queenslanders who need a helping hand, unlike the opposition, which is committed to cuts—cuts to programs, cuts to support services, cuts to infrastructure. They are about making it tougher for people who need a helping hand.