




Speech By
Hon. Anastacia Palaszcuk

MEMBER FOR INALA

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

The Smith Family, Christmas Appeal

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (9.40 am): Christmas is a time to celebrate with our family, friends and loved ones. We also know that Christmas can be a stressful and difficult time for many, especially for families struggling to provide for their children. We all have a part to play in supporting families in our community. If we are to make a difference to the lives of our most disadvantaged and vulnerable children and families, government and the community services sector need to work together.

Community services are a lifeline for Queensland's most vulnerable people, and a strong community services sector plays a vital role in our state's wellbeing. The Queensland government knows how important it is for the community services sector to have a voice. That is why we removed gag clauses from the government's streamlined service agreement and made it easier for the community services sector to focus on service delivery to clients by reducing red tape, making processes and systems simpler and supporting innovative approaches. The community services sector has valuable ideas, and these ideas have and will continue to inform the government's community services rebuilding strategy which will have a clear focus on clients, jobs and skills.

It is through the valuable work of community organisations like The Smith Family that we can reach out to those in need, especially at a time when people need assistance the most. The work of The Smith Family in helping disadvantaged children to have a better and brighter future is recognised and greatly appreciated by this government.

My government is pleased to continue to support the ongoing work of The Smith Family and will today provide \$100,000 to The Smith Family to support their work this Christmas. This year the Smith Family aims to deliver more than 36,000 new toys and 23,500 new books around Australia to help bring smiles to the faces of those children who are most in need.

I encourage everyone to make a difference this Christmas and generously give the gift of goodwill to show those Queenslanders in our community who are doing it tough that they are not alone. Together, we can make a difference.