



Speech By  
**Nikki Boyd**


**MEMBER FOR PINE RIVERS**

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## **ADJOURNMENT**

### **Cost of Living**

 **Ms BOYD** (Pine Rivers—ALP) (12.05 am): I know how hard it can be to make ends meet. Working in the underpaid childcare sector I experienced it firsthand. Then as an official with United Voice I met so many early educators, aged care workers, cleaners and teacher aides who had the same experience as me. They work long, hard hours for little pay and are hard hit whenever prices go up.

We have a crisis of wage stagnation in Australia now and limited wage growth. There is no denying this is a structural problem for our whole society. Part of the solution to this is federal, but I am pleased that in the meantime in Queensland we have a compassionate government working to reduce the pressure on people.

There is a stark contrast between the 43 per cent power price increases we saw under the Newman-Nicholl's LNP government and the 1.9 per cent per year on average increases under the Palaszczuk government. This combined with the expansion of electricity concessions to 157,000 extra Queenslanders eases this burden considerably. We are in a very fortunate position in comparison to other states and are managing the transition to a new energy future because we kept our power generating assets in public hands. I commend the government on its new Powering Queensland Plan. I would encourage our federal government to have as much foresight on energy matters.

Transport is a significant cost to the household budget. That is why our fairer fares savings will make such a difference. Weekday commuters from Pine Rivers will save just under \$900 a year—a significant part of a worker in my electorate's take home pay.

People in my community are starting to see the benefit of the foresight of previous Labor governments on water infrastructure, with a lowering of increases in water costs driven largely by the levelling out of bulk water prices in the Moreton Bay area. Drought proofing South-East Queensland was expensive, but now that it is done we have the infrastructure there for generations to come and in a timely fashion to ease the pressure of water charges.

Recently the compassion of this government was on full display. Hospital car parking is an outrageous burden on patients and their families. I am proud that our government has acted and will work to provide an additional 100,000 free and concessional car spaces at hospitals.

Also in the health transport space, we recently saw the government reinstate the Patient Travel Subsidy Scheme for NDIS participants. This was to meet a shortcoming of the NDIS. The reinstatement will provide two extra years for the NDIS to work itself out without disadvantaging people in our community who have a disability and need travel support.

Beyond supporting the mere essentials of electricity, water, health and transport, we also reduced the cost barriers of participating in community sport. Every family knows that kids sport is a considerable expense, but also knows that we should encourage activity for our young people and community

participation. That is why I am pleased we have been able to continue the hugely popular Get in the Game sporting vouchers throughout my electorate with 2,218 vouchers redeemed at a little over \$329,000 value to our community.