



Speech By  
**Melissa McMahon**


**MEMBER FOR MACALISTER**

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Record of Proceedings, 16 June 2020

**MOTION**

**Coronavirus, Economic Response**

 **Mrs McMAHON** (Macalister—ALP) (3.22 pm): I rise to support the motion. As Queensland unites and recovers from COVID-19, the state Labor government is providing the building and stimulus investment that my constituents need. The seniors and accessibility assistance program targets the people who need help the most. With a median house price of \$350,000 for a three-bedroom home in my electorate, many residents do not have a lazy \$150,000 laying around to renovate their homes. Their banks are not going to lend them half the value of their homes during this period to do a vanity project. My constituents are not benefiting from the federal government's upper-class welfare. This means that my local tradies and builders are not benefiting from the federal government's COVID-19 largess.

This state government has identified the people who need the renovations, people who need the home improvements—not to get the latest splashback but to make sure they can access their homes. Surely making a home more accessible, allowing people to stay in their homes longer, is a much better use of a building stimulus. The seniors and accessibility assistance program will assist with a subsidy of up to \$5,000 to eligible older people to make their homes safer, to make them more accessible and to make them livable—whether it is Wayne in Beenleigh who needs his hot-water system replaced or Grace in Loganholme whose floorboards are uneven and represent a trip hazard. Many of us would have had elderly residents who have tripped and fallen in their own homes. If there is something we can do to make their homes safer whilst keeping it more affordable, then let us do it.

This will also be a boon for the tradies in my electorate. Beenleigh is ground zero for tradies, whether it is plumbers or sparkies. These are the types of jobs that my local small businesses or my sole traders and family businesses are able to quote for. These are projects that are ready to go. A \$5,000 job to install a ramp is right up the ally of Cut It Up Carpentry, one of Macalister's small businesses.

During a recent phone call I had a chat with John from Beenleigh who has been a plasterer since the 1970s and he has never seen it as bad as it has been this year. He has been driving around all over giving quotes, but unfortunately no-one has the money to do the jobs that he is able to do as a 72-year-old man who is still working. Jobs like these where he can deliver his local services in local homes are exactly the kind of stimulus and jobs he can do. He is not and has never been able to quote on a \$300,000 renovation, but if it is a \$3,500 quote to make the doorway of a home more accessible he is going to get the job and that is great for Queensland as we unite and recover.