




Speech By
Hon. Craig Crawford

MEMBER FOR BARRON RIVER

Record of Proceedings, 27 October 2022

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Federal Budget, Seniors

 **Hon. CD CRAWFORD** (Barron River—ALP) (Minister for Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (10.10 am): I welcome the measures in the Labor federal budget that support our older Australians. With cost-of-living pressures rising, the Labor federal budget provides for an increase in income thresholds as well as the amount pensioners can earn before their pensions are affected. These measures complement the \$6.7 billion in funding provided by the Palaszczuk government for concessions and rebates in the 2022-23 state budget that put more than \$1,100 back into the pockets of eligible Queensland seniors. With calls from Australians for government to step up when it comes to residential aged-care facilities, federal Labor has responded. Queensland seniors will benefit from more than \$2.5 billion over four years to reform the aged-care system. This investment will deliver better care, healthier food in nursing homes, more registered nurses over more hours, training for carers, and pay rises to attract skilled workers.

The Labor federal government has also budgeted \$18.1 million over two years to increase financial transparency and reporting for residential aged-care providers and establishing an Aged Care Complaints Commissioner with the Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission. This is good news for Queensland seniors. These measures will also back in our efforts to create an age-friendly Queensland where older people can lead healthy, productive lives and have access to good jobs, better services and our great Queensland lifestyle. These commitments are affirmed through the Palaszczuk government's *Future directions for an age-friendly Queensland* and will guide the development of a new seniors strategy to be launched next year. We will deliver actions for an age-friendly state where Queensland seniors are connected to their communities, cared for and supported, and contributing to their local communities in ways of their own choosing.