




Speech By
Hon. Craig Crawford

MEMBER FOR BARRON RIVER

Record of Proceedings, 28 October 2022

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Cost of Living, Rebates and Concessions

 **Hon. CD CRAWFORD** (Barron River—ALP) (Minister for Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (10.02 am): Cost-of-living pressures are impacting all Australians and this is particularly so for seniors, who have told me that making their fixed incomes stretch to cover cost-of-living increases is challenging. Whether it be grocery prices, fuel costs, electricity bills, insurance premiums, rent or mortgage payments, tight household budgets are under strain. That is why the Palaszczuk government allocated a record \$6.786 billion for concessions and rebates in the 2022-23 state budget. Within that record allocation, my department is administering \$725 million worth of targeted concessions and rebates to those who need it most, including eligible seniors and those on a disability, aged care or Department of Veterans' Affairs pension.

For example, a retired couple in their seventies, living in their own home in Moggill with no dependants, with seniors cards and on the pension, is eligible for a \$372 electricity rebate, a \$120 water rebate, a \$200 rates rebate and an \$81 rebate for reticulated natural gas. They would also receive a discount of around \$170 on car registration and the \$175 cost-of-living rebate on the current electricity bill. They are entitled to discounted travel on public transport, saving 50 per cent on fares. This is the Palaszczuk government putting more than \$1,100 back into the pockets of eligible Queensland seniors. The Palaszczuk government also provides concessions and rebates on a broad range of government services including long-distance rail services, spectacles, medical aids and dental services.

Through these concessions and rebates, my department has partnered with Smart Service Queensland to deliver over 2.4 million instances of support. We are promoting the availability of concessions and rebates through our Seniors Savings pop-ups in local shopping centres and seniors events across Queensland. We also welcome today's launch of the Smart Savings website, where Queenslanders can quickly identify a list of potential savings they may be eligible to receive.