




Speech By
Hon. Craig Crawford

MEMBER FOR BARRON RIVER

Record of Proceedings, 10 November 2022

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Carers Advisory Council

 **Hon. CD CRAWFORD** (Barron River—ALP) (Minister for Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (10.00 am): I am pleased to advise the House that the Queensland Carers Advisory Council met on Tuesday, 1 November this year. This was their third meeting this year. The council advises me on carers' priorities and issues. It provides a direct voice to government for carers to raise their concerns. The council consists of carers, carer organisations and government agencies that intersect with carers.

Over half a million Queenslanders are unpaid carers. They make an extraordinary contribution to the lives of the people they care for and their communities. Their work provides social and economic benefits for the state. I value the council's expert advice on how policy, programs, services and strategies can best meet the needs of carers.

To date the council has considered areas of the Queensland Carers Recognition Act 2008 that would benefit from review: the difficulties faced by young carers, particularly relating to education or training; research gaps for carer cohorts, including young carers and grandparent carers; the need to raise awareness of the economic and social value of carers; and the need for all workplaces to support carers through flexible work arrangements and recognising the principles of the Queensland Carers Charter in HR policy and practice. Being a carer is not an easy job. The Palaszczuk government is committed to ensuring carers are recognised, valued and supported.

All Queenslanders deserve good jobs, better services and a great lifestyle. For example, the Queensland government provides the Carers Business Discount Card, which currently helps over 17,000 people by easing cost-of-living pressures through discounts on goods and services at more than 4,300 participating businesses. The Companion Card supports over 34,000 Queenslanders with disability who have a lifelong need for attendant care to participate in community activities. Companion Card holders receive a second companion ticket at no charge at more than 840 participating venues and on public transport. We are investing just short of \$1 million—\$988,000 in fact—in 2022-23 in the Time for Grandparents program to provide advice and support to unpaid grandparent carers who have primary responsibility for raising their grandchildren. I look forward to working with the council to advance their priorities and in supporting Queensland carers.