



Speech By  
**Charis Mullen**


**MEMBER FOR JORDAN**

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Record of Proceedings, 26 October 2023

**PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT**

**Jordan Electorate**

 **Mrs MULLEN** (Jordan—ALP) (2.27 pm): On Sunday I was pleased to welcome local families to my annual Welcoming the Babies event. Dubbed the cutest citizenship ceremony, it is also an important way to connect our young families with the vital health and social services that are available in our Greater Springfield community and surrounds. Having a baby is one of the most joyful and life-changing experiences, but those of us who have been there know that it can be exhausting and bring financial and emotional stresses as well. The event, which I co-hosted with our federal member for Oxley, Milton Dick, is our way of letting new parents know that they are not alone and we are there to wrap around them with support and assistance.

The event is also a great way to reflect on the many ways that our government—the Palaszczuk Labor government—is supporting young families in our communities. We know that the cost of living is impacting everyone at this time, and all households are looking for savings where they can find them. That is why our \$550 electricity rebate has been so well received as well as our cashback program for those hoping to purchase energy-efficient appliances.

One of the most popular cost-of-living measures has to be our government's free kindy. Our \$645 million investment will help every Queensland child get a great start in life and support parents in their return to work. The babies we welcomed on Sunday will directly benefit from the free 15 hours a week of kindy they will be receiving in a government approved educational program before they start school. Importantly, free kindergarten is set to save those local families around \$4,600 per year, putting money back in the pockets of mums, dads and carers where it is needed. Once they experience free kindy, they are ready for school. The record investment that our Labor government has made into schools in my electorate has been nothing short of incredible, with three new schools built and opened since I have been elected and millions of dollars spent on new buildings and facilities at all of our local schools, not to mention funding to ensure we have world-class teachers and support staff.

We also have the construction of the brand new Mater Springfield public hospital, which is an absolute game changer for young families in my electorate. Our government is proud to be delivering this new hospital in partnership with Mater Health Services. There will be such peace of mind to those young families knowing they will have an emergency department so close to home, an intensive care unit, 174 public hospital beds and, importantly, the well-known and regarded Mater Mothers maternity services. They can also pop 10 minutes away to the brand new Ripley Satellite Hospital. We have already seen 2,600 patients go through the satellite hospital since its opening on 30 August. This is again peace of mind to local families.

There is one dark cloud hanging over the heads of young families in my electorate, and that is the LNP. We know that everything we are doing to make life better for young families is at risk if the LNP gain power in Queensland. They will not tell the people of Queensland what their plans are. We know based on their records that young families have much to fear under the LNP.