



Speech By  
**Christopher Whiting**


**MEMBER FOR BANCROFT**

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**PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT**

**Food Rescue Grant Program**

 **Mr WHITING** (Bancroft—ALP) (2.51 pm): I am glad to say that the Palaszczuk government will always support Queenslanders and their community organisations through a healthy and sustainable grants system. It is one of the great things that we do to support volunteering throughout our communities. We are committed to keeping those funds flowing.

I thank Minister Scanlon for the announcement yesterday about the Food Rescue Grant Program where we are committing \$2.9 million to 10 food rescue programs. That will mean nearly six million meals for Queenslanders and divert nearly 3,000 tonnes of food from landfill. I am pleased that this will help organisations collect and distribute food through grants to get new equipment or transportation.

I am so pleased to say that one of those organisations is the Lighthouse Centre Deception Bay. They will be getting \$104,000 to purchase a new refrigerated truck to collect and distribute food. That is absolutely fantastic. I thank the minister for that. What that means is that the Lighthouse Centre will be able to keep distributing food and meals throughout Deception Bay.

The Lighthouse Centre is one of our treasured institutions in Deception Bay. For nearly 30 years, Pastor David and Cheryl Rauchle have been making sure that literally thousands of families in our area have food on their tables. They run what is equivalent to a medium-sized supermarket and it is staffed by dozens of volunteers. I am proud of what they do. They are true Queensland legends. We support the work they do. That grant is on top of the Gambling Community Benefit Fund money they received to buy a brand new forklift. Without these grants they would be hard pressed to do what they do. Once again, thank you for that, Minister.

In our area we will be letting more Queenslanders know about the grants system that can help support their businesses or organisations. I am pleased to let the parliament know that the Deputy Premier, the member for Kurwongbah and I on Monday night will be conducting a grants seminar at the YMCA at Mango Hill. Already we have nearly 100 people coming along.

We will be talking about the different grant programs that people can apply to and how to best apply for those grants. We will be briefed by representatives from the Moreton Bay Regional Council, the sports and recreation department, the department of small business and the Gambling and Community Benefit Fund. Robyn Baker from Busy Connecting will talk about how to put in a grant application. I look forward to seeing these local businesses and local organisations get these grants to keep their organisations going.