




Speech By
Hon. Craig Crawford

MEMBER FOR BARRON RIVER

Record of Proceedings, 15 June 2023

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Budget, Seniors

 **Hon. CD CRAWFORD** (Barron River—ALP) (Minister for Child Safety and Minister for Seniors and Disability Services) (9.54 am): Today we mark World Elder Abuse Awareness Day. The Palaszczuk government is committed to building an inclusive state where our more than 900,000 seniors are safe and supported in the community. The budget will invest \$15.3 million over the next four years to support Queensland seniors. This is over and above the \$725 million in concessions and rebates already on the table and the significant \$1.48 billion cost-of-living announcement on Tuesday by the Treasurer that will benefit all Queensland householders by reducing their power bills. Those investments will make a significant and ongoing commitment to an age-friendly Queensland for older people now and for future generations. We want all Queensland seniors to access the services they need to lead full and active lives and we want them to feel cared for and supported by Queensland's world-class services.

Seniors expos and seniors pop-up events are an important part of connecting seniors to services in their community and providing an opportunity for us to make sure they are accessing all of the government concessions and rebates they are entitled to. Expos are an opportunity for government to listen to older Queenslanders to assist framing the next age-friendly strategy to be launched in October so that it meets their needs and their expectations.

Ensuring Queensland seniors can live their lives free from physical, emotional and financial abuse and scams is also a priority for this government. That is why we are boosting funding for seniors social isolation services from 2024-25 and expanding the footprint of services to support those at risk of elder abuse so more older people can access them.

Importantly, this budget will enable the valuable work of the Queensland Carers Advisory Council in providing advice to government on how to support carers to continue. The budget investment celebrates the contribution seniors make to Queensland through their roles as carers, as workers, as volunteers and as community leaders. Through this budget we will deliver ongoing support to ensure Queensland seniors are able to live a rich and full life.