




Speech By
Jessica Pugh

MEMBER FOR MOUNT OMMANEY

Record of Proceedings, 15 November 2023

MOTION

Palaszczuk Labor Government Polling

 **Ms PUGH** (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (5.17 pm): I rise to speak to the amendment because I am always pleased to have the opportunity to speak about the assistance the Palaszczuk government is giving for cost-of-living issues. In my community, when I am on the doors or I am calling seniors or I am doing a mobile office, the feedback is always clear and consistent: they love our cost-of-living plan, and why wouldn't they? It is the biggest in the nation.

The Palaszczuk government is delivering the largest cost-of-living relief package in the nation. Members of the House, of course, would be aware that the cost-of-living measures under the Palaszczuk government's \$8.2 billion support program include 1.6 million households receiving the \$550 cost-of-living rebate on their energy bills. Of course, all members of this House need to declare that. We should have received that as well. I certainly did on my most recent power bill.

My constituents are very happy about it. We have 600,000 seniors and concession card holders receiving over a thousand dollars off their electricity bills over the coming financial year. Those discounts have already started rolling off. There are 205,000 small businesses receiving \$650 off their electricity bills. We have 38,000 Queenslanders receiving their Climate Smart Energy Savers rebate. We have 690,000 seniors who received 50 per cent off their car registration in the last year. I think of my grandad over in New Zealand when I read this one: 34,000 Queenslanders have been getting discounts off their boat rego in the last year. Murray would absolutely love that one, but he cannot have it because he is in New Zealand. Sorry, Murray.

Some 325,000 seniors have received free glasses, and there may be some members of the House who were eligible for this fantastic scheme being seniors themselves. From next year I do not have to tell members of this House how exciting it is that 64,000 Queensland families can save up to \$4,600 on average through free kindy. Whenever I go and visit kindies about this, the parents are excited, the kids are excited and, especially at our local C&Ks, the teachers are excited too, because every single C&K in my electorate has told me that since this program was introduced it has seen a significant increase in their enrolments for next year. It has provided them with a really great competition point with the larger longer day care providers. While it still applies to those longer day care programs, it is giving those program providers in the C&Ks in those traditional kindy models a really fantastic opportunity to provide that service to some of our most vulnerable kids. We know how critical it is that young people are engaged in the education system as early as possible so that when they start in primary school they have already had that grounding in the education system with prep and they are ready to start alongside their peers with the same level of knowledge and socialisation. It is just wonderful to see. I must also declare that I will probably be a beneficiary with my daughter Elyse for the wonderful free kindy program because it applies to all Queensland families who have a child who fits into that age bracket.

Some 36,000 families have received our FairPlay sports vouchers. For people who want to see what cost-of-living relief is available, I always encourage everyone in my community when I am out and about doing my 'Pugh's polling', as I call it, when I am doing my mobile offices, to visit the Queensland Savers website. I sit down with some of my elderly constituents and get out my laptop and say, 'Let's go through and see what you're eligible for.' It usually takes us about 15 minutes, but it could save you thousands if you are missing out on some of the things that you are eligible for. The Palaszczuk government is committed to doing our bit to help Queensland families make ends meet as the cost-of-living pressures continue to rise nationally. Concessions like our cost-of-living rebates are only possible because we own our energy assets, and that is why we are legislating to keep our public assets in public hands.

In the time that I have left I want to say how excited my community is about the Big Build program. Obviously Mount Ommaney is a big beneficiary of the Big Build. We have the Centenary Bridge currently underway and planning is underway for the Darra to Toowong stretch of the Centenary Motorway. Consultation on the draft master plan for that fantastic project starts early next year and I encourage all residents to have their say to shape the future of this vital piece of infrastructure. Work is continuing apace in Mount Ommaney and I am proud to be part of the Palaszczuk government that backs it.