




Speech By
Hon. Leanne Linard

MEMBER FOR NUDGEES

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ADJOURNMENT

Cost of Living, Relief

 **Hon. LM LINARD** (Nudgees—ALP) (Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (6.10 pm): My community, like all of our communities, is not immune to the cost-of-living pressures we see nationally. I have been spending time, like many of us in this chamber, engaging with constituents who are doing it tough or are concerned about those who may be doing it tough. I have also spent time with some exceptional members in my community who are doing what they can to help those who are affected most by what we are seeing across the country, and I want to give them recognition today.

I want to call out the fantastic Phill and Colleen, of Phill's Fruit and Vegies, who run a fresh fruit and vegetable shop out of their home in Nundah. Phill and Colleen are wonderful people who would give the shirts off their back to make sure our community has a place to purchase healthy groceries at a reduced cost to the big supermarkets. It was my absolute pleasure to recognise them for two years running in my Nudgees Small Business Awards. I will always take the opportunity to thank them for what they do and remind them how loved they are by our community.

I also want to call out a lovely family in Wavell Heights, Claire, Josh and their little one Freya, who have initiated the Wavell Heights Edible Exchange. It is a community exchange where people can drop off food and other items they might not have a use for and pick up things left by others that they need. It helps those in need and it reduces food waste. I thank them for providing such a wonderful service that brings our community together in a spirit of generosity.

Much like my community is here for one another, the Palaszczuk government is here for Queenslanders, delivering the largest array of cost-of-living relief in the country. Both my wonderful electorate team and I have heard from many in my electorate who have benefited from our energy rebates, helping to lower their power bills. There are those who are able to afford new energy-efficient appliances, thanks to our appliance rebate. We are delivering cheaper car and boat registration and free glasses for our seniors. We are saving Queensland families over \$4½ thousand in kindy fees through our Free Kindy program. We are providing access to free vocational education and training with Fee-Free TAFE, including a cost-free Diploma of Nursing in 2024. We are helping families keep their kids in active sports through our FairPlay vouchers program. We are also boosting funding for school breakfast programs and have put over \$710 million directly back into the pockets of Queenslanders through our Containers for Change scheme.

We have a range of assistance available to assist people with securing and maintaining housing, with record investments to boost social housing stock as well as direct assistance such as bond loans, rental security subsidies, mortgage relief, headleases and a range of other supports. Our government is investing more than any other before it to support Queenslanders and the people of the Nudgees electorate, and we will continue to do so. It is only a Labor government that will do that.