




Speech By
Hon. Leanne Enoch

MEMBER FOR ALGESTER

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ADJOURNMENT

Algester Electorate, Small Business Month

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algester—ALP) (Minister for Treaty, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Minister for Communities and Minister for the Arts) (7.03 pm): Small businesses are the lifeblood of the community and last week it was my privilege to host a Small Business Month morning tea at the local YMCA in Acacia Ridge, in the electorate of Algester. A number of small businesses from across my electorate were in attendance and it was wonderful to hear their stories and talk with them about the Palaszczuk government's small business support services. There are over 6,000 small businesses in my electorate of Algester and they work hard each and every day, supporting the local economy and, of course, supporting local jobs.

I refer to businesses such as Bottles and Cans at Browns Plains, which is owned by Andrew and Julie Lambert. In September 2020 when they started the Containers for Change program, which I am incredibly proud to have initiated as the then minister for environment, was still a relatively new program. Andrew and Julie did what so many small businesses do to get started: they took a risk. Thankfully, that risk paid off. With the incredible success of Containers for Change, Andrew and Julie's business has prospered. Last month I was able to celebrate with them as they marked the incredible milestone of serving their 100,000th customer.

Another local business that I had the privilege of hosting was Vintage Loves Flowers and Decor. When the former owners chose to sell that business, employee Joanne Irvine, who has been a florist for 30 years, stepped in to take over. Joanne has a deep passion for her industry and her community. Vintage Loves Flowers and Decor has now become a family business that she operates with her sister Stephanie. As well as expressing her commitment to the local community, Joanne spoke to me about cost-of-living pressures. I had a chance to catch up with Joanne again at the end of last week when I had my flu shot as her shop is just across the road from the chemist. She talked about issues such as the cost of living and how the morning tea was a great opportunity to share with other businesses.

It is stories such as Joanne's that make the government's efforts to help with some of those financial pressures so important. Recently, our government announced a \$650 energy rebate for small businesses as part of our extensive cost-of-living measures. We can deliver these rebates because we kept Queensland's energy assets in public hands. That decision is now providing real support to small businesses.

As Small Business Month draws to a close, I want to acknowledge the valuable contributions that those businesses and thousands of others like them make to our community. Through programs like the Go Local, Grow Local campaign and Mentoring for Growth, our government is committed to the success of small businesses right across Queensland. As the member for Algester, I am determined to see them thrive in my local community as well. I give a big shout-out to Paviter Noori from Ecutas Training, Iqbal Singh from Freshmorning2021 and Jon Smith from Smith & Li who were also in attendance at the Small Business Month morning tea.