




Speech By
Hon. Leanne Enoch

MEMBER FOR ALGESTER

Record of Proceedings, 16 June 2023

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Budget, Community Services

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algester—ALP) (Minister for Treaty, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Minister for Communities and Minister for the Arts) (9.49 am): We know that many Queenslanders are doing it tough right now with the entire nation facing significant cost-of-living pressures. The 2023 state budget is focused squarely on tackling these pressures and providing Queenslanders with the support they need. Families, in particular, are feeling these pressures, which is why the budget includes nearly \$2.7 million over two years to expand our investment in school breakfast programs. This commitment means more children in Queensland will be learning on a full stomach, helping to improve learning outcomes and promoting social inclusion in school communities. I have seen firsthand how the healthy, nutritious meals provided by school breakfast programs across Queensland make a difference to the wellbeing and education of children who need it the most. I am advised that we already fund around 300 school breakfast clubs across the state, and this additional funding will help us expand that to a further 200 schools in more locations across Queensland.

The state budget also includes an extra \$315,000 in funding for Foodbank to provide essential food to Queenslanders and member charities seeking their assistance. This is on top of the doubling of funding for Foodbank this financial year following the housing summit and round table.

We are also supporting the important work of OzHarvest and SecondBite after doubling their funding this year as part of a \$3.9 billion boost to emergency relief and food relief providers. This additional funding is all about helping ease the cost-of-living pressures being felt in our communities.

The state budget also seeks to support some of our most vulnerable Queenslanders and build connected, cohesive communities through our record investment in neighbourhood and community centres in the sector. The government continues to deliver our record \$115.8 million investment in neighbourhood and community centres over four years, which includes a \$51.8 million boost to base funding for centres and \$39 million to invest in new or improved neighbourhood community centre infrastructure, including our \$4.5 million total investment to build Rockhampton's first neighbourhood and community centre, something I know the member for Rockhampton has been advocating for and is incredibly proud of. Neighbourhood and community centres play an important role in providing support and referral to essential frontline services for vulnerable people, and we are proud to be providing them with record funding. We will continue to put cost-of-living relief front and centre of everything we do to support Queenslanders at a time when they need it most.