




Speech By
Hon. Leanne Enoch

MEMBER FOR ALGESTER

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ADJOURNMENT

Acacia Coffee Co.; Seniors 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) (7.24 pm): The Algester electorate is home to some incredible local businesses that do not just deliver a service but embed themselves in the fabric of our community. One such business is Acacia Coffee Co., which is a small business in Acacia Ridge at the top end of my electorate of Algester. In the early hours of this morning that business was destroyed completely by fire. Police are treating this incident as suspicious and are appealing for anyone who may have information to call Crime Stoppers. I spoke to Kym this morning, who is rightfully devastated and incredibly upset about what has happened. I wish her all the very best.

This month is Queensland Seniors Month and it has been great to see so many local groups in my electorate of Algester celebrate the occasion. This year's Seniors Month theme is celebrating social connection and is an opportunity to connect people who otherwise might be at risk of experiencing social isolation and loneliness. We also know that elderly Queenslanders are most at risk of falling victim to scams. That is why I joined with the member for Logan to co-host a seniors safety afternoon tea. I want to thank the member for Logan for taking on the role of emcee at the event. The event was attended by more than 60 seniors, who gained valuable insight into how to stay safe online.

I would like to acknowledge Lynette from the Office of Fair Trading, who gave a presentation to spread awareness about scam messages and phishing attempts, especially as we come into the holiday season. I would like to acknowledge Jade from Smart Service Queensland, who provided key cost-of-living supports that are available to seniors who are dealing with the national rise in cost-of-living pressures including: the combined \$1,072 rebate, the 50 per cent reduction in public transport services and long distance train travel, the 50 per cent reduction in vehicle registration, free dental treatments including the provision of dentures at public clinics and hospitals, and the Medical Aids Subsidy Scheme which provides funding for a range of aids and equipment. Queensland seniors can also visit locations across the Queensland Museum network, the Queensland Art Gallery and Gallery of Modern Art exhibitions at a discounted rate. These concessions are just some of the ways the Palaszczuk government is supporting Queensland seniors.

Seniors from the Algester electorate also gained insight from Lou from the Queensland Police Service about increasing their awareness of home safety and decreasing the risk of break-ins and theft. Key elements include simple tips like locking front, back and side doors and garages and, of course, ensuring people look out for their neighbours. I am conducting another one of these forums later this week. I support seniors to come along and learn more about being safer.