



Speech By  
**Hon. Charis Mullen**


**MEMBER FOR JORDAN**

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Record of Proceedings, 14 February 2024

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

**Child Safety, Seniors, Disability Services and Multicultural Affairs**

 **Hon. C MULLEN** (Jordan—ALP) (Minister for Child Safety, Minister for Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (9.51 am): It is an honour to stand in this place as the new Minister for Child Safety, Minister for Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Multicultural Affairs. I am very excited to be part of a new, invigorated team bringing fresh perspectives and a renewed commitment to the people of Queensland. I know I speak for my colleagues when I say we are certainly very proud to be a part of the new Miles government.

The past few weeks have been a whirlwind of meetings, visits, events and lots of learning. I have loved connecting with our key sector stakeholders, attending multicultural events, visiting some of our funded organisations and getting to know our dedicated department teams—Child Safety staff caring for vulnerable children and families; Seniors and Disability Services staff advocating for and supporting our seniors and people with disability; and Multicultural Affairs staff fostering and supporting cultural diversity in our state. I have been inspired by so many who bring a powerful energy and commitment to their jobs.

When I became the minister, I said that how we look after the most vulnerable in our community speaks to the Queensland we want to be. I also recognise that at times the issues are complex and sometimes heartbreaking, but they are not insurmountable or without hope. We have a big agenda of legislative and policy reform ahead of us, particularly in child safety and disability services. It is such an exciting time to be at the helm of these important portfolios.

Since my appointment we have released the Roadmap for Residential Care in Queensland, a five-year plan designed in partnership with the sector and aimed at halving the rate of children and young people in residential care. I have attended my first disability reform ministers meeting, representing the interests of Queenslanders with disability as we progress key reforms from the disability royal commission and the NDIS review. We have also announced additional funding of \$1.6 million for disability advocacy services which support people with disability, their families and carers here in Queensland, particularly as we embark on this important period of reform.

This year we will also deliver a new seniors strategy and multicultural action plan. As a local member of parliament and like so many of my colleagues here in the House, I value our multicultural communities. It is the realisation of a dream to have the responsibility to support our multicultural communities at the highest level in government—not bad for the daughter of Greek migrants. It is an honour to serve the people of this state and be part of the Miles Labor team. I hope to be a worthy champion for Queenslanders, particularly for those who need their voice amplified—children, families, people with disability, seniors and our culturally and linguistically diverse communities. I look forward to travelling the state this year to witness firsthand the incredible and important work taking place across my portfolio responsibilities.