




Speech By
Hon. Charis Mullen

MEMBER FOR JORDAN

Record of Proceedings, 12 June 2024

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Budget, Child and Family Services, Seniors and Disability Services, Multicultural Affairs

 **Hon. C MULLEN** (Jordan—ALP) (Minister for Child Safety, Minister for Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (10.12 am): The Miles government's 2024-25 state budget focuses on doing what matters for Queenslanders. Across my portfolio areas our government is: investing \$2.3 billion in child and family services; \$3.7 billion in seniors and disability services; and \$21 million in multicultural affairs. I would like to highlight two groups of Queenslanders I know are doing it particularly tough—our foster and kinship carers and our seniors. I am pleased to announce that this budget includes an extra \$190.8 million over four years for foster and kinship carers looking after children with complex and high-needs support. These are the incredible carers who have opened their hearts and homes to some of our most vulnerable children. These are the children living with complex physical, intellectual and behavioural conditions. Many of these children need around-the-clock care. This budget gives their carers more financial support that they need and deserve.

Cost-of-living pressures will also be addressed through an extra \$31.8 million over five years and \$7.9 million ongoing for the extended post-care support system which, of course, provides financial support for young people leaving care up to their 21st birthday. This funding is supporting these young people to transition to greater independence and setting them up for success. Of course, our older Queenslanders are also important when it comes to needing help with increased cost of living. That is why this budget includes \$1 billion in concessions and rebates on energy, utilities and rates bills and the cost-of-living rebate—and that is just for them.

However, I also wish to thank the Treasurer and Premier for a budget that goes beyond these two groups. Across my portfolio areas—from young people, seniors and carers to people with disability and those from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds—there is cost-of-living help. This includes: 50-cent public transport fares; more discounts on car registration; up to \$1,672 off electricity bills; \$200 FairPlay vouchers; free kindy; and free TAFE. This is a budget that recognises and responds to the challenges being experienced by our most vulnerable Queenslanders. Strong communities support their most vulnerable citizens. The Miles government is proud to be investing in services that help Queenslanders who need it the most.