




Speech By
Hon. Charis Mullen

MEMBER FOR JORDAN

Record of Proceedings, 20 August 2024

ADJOURNMENT

Jordan Electorate, Emergency Relief Funding

 **Hon. C MULLEN** (Jordan—ALP) (Minister for Child Safety, Minister for Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (10.08 pm): It was in the 2022-23 state budget that our Labor government announced a significant uplift in funding for neighbourhood and community centres, a more than doubling of the operational funding for these centres. We also extended emergency relief funding to more centres. This has made a tangible difference, especially to those in our communities experiencing significant cost-of-living pressures.

Tonight I want to share with the House an email I received from a dynamo in my electorate, the wonderful Kelly-Ann, the community support worker at one of my incredible neighbourhood centres, Gailles Community House, which speaks to the impact our government's funding has had in my electorate of Jordan. She writes—

Hi, fabulous people! We thought that we would give you some feedback about the week we've had at Gailles Community House. It is a snapshot of not just the relevance but of the genuine importance of neighbourhood centres in community relationship and capacity building.

Donna met with a community member at Charis's mobile office on Saturday. This community member attended the Centre for our Tuesday cooking group and had a wonderful time. She's back again today for our community Soup-er Friday and our Friday Fitness group, and we will now be a part of her regular weekly schedule.

We were successful in collaborating with a DVF service and secured immediate safe accommodation for a woman fleeing an abusive partner. She disclosed that she had been living in her car for a week with only the clothes on her back. We were able to provide brokerage so that she could obtain clean clothes, basic toiletries for her first warm shower in a week, food for her first few nights of safety and generalised support so that she felt heard.

Long-term, supported, safe and affordable accommodation was secured for a single male. This eventuated because of the close working relationships between the Centre and supported accommodation providers. We provided a small amount of brokerage for fuel and grocery items so that he was able to get to his sign up appointment and then on to his accommodation.

Our Family Link worker met a lady at our Playgroup. This lady originally from India had been alone and isolated from connections for 2 and a half years. At her first play group last week, she met another mum local to her, they shared experiences, they connected, and they have now exchanged phone numbers. She was in tears as she spoke to her worker and expressed how excited she is that she's able to start living life again.

Our Budget Grub Hub volunteers helped over 20 families receive our free food hampers on Wednesday—they've built such great connections, and the conversations they have about how to stretch the family dollar, budget recipes, and just general conversations about family health—it's just beautiful to be a part of.

Again, we just wanted for you to see in real terms what a great place Gailles Community House truly is, and how the brokerage for Emergency Relief and extra funding that the State Govt provided is truly changing and improving lives.

When I was first elected, Gales Community House was relying on two-year funding contracts. Our government has extended that to five-year contracts. We have more than doubled their funding and provided emergency relief funding. Gales is not a wealthy area in my electorate and it has its fair share of battlers, but Gales Community House is there for each and every one of them.