




Speech By
Cynthia Lui

MEMBER FOR COOK

Record of Proceedings, 21 August 2024

APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL
APPROPRIATION BILL
Consideration in Detail (Cognate Debate)
Appropriation Bill

Community Support and Services Committee, Report

 **Ms LUI** (Cook—ALP) (3.11 pm): I rise to speak on the Community Support and Services Committee budget estimates for the 2024-25 financial year. The committee's primary areas of responsibility are: treaty, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander partnerships, communities and the arts; child safety, seniors and disability services, and multicultural affairs; and tourism and sport. I want to acknowledge and thank Minister Leeanne Enoch, Minister Charis Mullen and Minister Michael Healy and their respective departments.

On 14 June 2024, the Appropriation Bill 2024 and the estimates for the committee's areas of responsibility were referred to the Community Support and Services Committee for investigation and report. The estimates process is one of the key mechanisms to examine government expenditure, performance and effectiveness. I am humbled to speak on my seventh estimates process. This year's estimates was fair and transparent and gave those opposite ample time to scrutinise government expenditure.

High cost of living affects every household right across the state. The Miles government knows just how tough Queenslanders are doing it right now and we are doing what matters. The Department of Treaty, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Communities and the Arts allocated \$2.26 billion to the cost-of-living rebate, with many Queenslanders benefiting from the \$1,000 electricity rebate. The amount of \$20 million was invested into cost-of-living relief, providing additional support for the most vulnerable in our communities through initiatives such as the community focused food programs to help families of school-age children create nutritious and affordable meals.

Extra funds were committed to OzHarvest and SecondBite to continue critical food recovery and distribution services. Meals on Wheels will continue its good work with a \$1.2 million boost over four years. Further investment will go towards community financial resilience support and emergency relief provider funding. Our government is making sure that no-one gets left behind. That is why \$5.4 million over two years will go towards combating the effects of isolation and loneliness for Queensland families.

The Miles Labor government is committed to working in partnership with First Nations people. I want to commend Minister Enoch for driving meaningful change through her department, allocating over \$11 million to prepare for the Truth-telling and Healing Inquiry. The stories shared and the emotions shown during the examination of the Path to Treaty Bill, which I was humbled to be part of, tell us that the path to truth-telling and healing is not going to be an easy one. This investment will help

community members to tell their stories, support staff wellbeing, and support research and archival specialists. While the Miles government is on the path to forging a new chapter in our state's history, not much can be said for those opposite after the Leader of the Opposition turned his back on treaty.

When it comes to the Department of Child Safety, Seniors and Disability Services, I commend the minister and her department for the work they do to support families, children and young people; providing services to support the safety, belonging and wellbeing of children and young people not able to be cared for by their families; delivering high-quality services and safeguards, and promoting the inclusion, engagement, rights and social and economic participation of seniors, carers and people with disability; and influencing, facilitating and promoting efforts to build belonging and economic and social inclusion for people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.

Our investment will continue to make a difference to those who need it most through initiatives such as the care allowance and post-care supports; Supporting Families Changing Futures, ICT digital applications and the Unify Program Continuous Improvement Pipeline; the Asylum Seeker and Refugee Assistance Program and the Queensland Program of Assistance to Survivors of Torture and Trauma; family reunification pilot service; African youth and community members; and disability reforms.

The Department of Tourism and Sport's main aim is to drive the return and growth of a sustainable and competitive tourism industry, attracting capital investment and maximising the benefit of tourism and major events to boost Queensland's economy. Our government has led the way with the sport and active recreation industry to support Queenslanders to participate through quality infrastructure and local environments, and by supporting pathways to assist Queenslanders to reach their full sporting potential.

I want to make special acknowledgement of Minister Healy for his support for the recovery process from the recent floods we had in Far North Queensland. His department stepped up. Through tourism recovery support we were able to deliver packages to support the tourism industry in Far North Queensland. I commend the report to the House.