



Speech By  
**Jessica Pugh**


**MEMBER FOR MOUNT OMMANEY**

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Record of Proceedings, 21 August 2024

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

**Cost of Living and Economics Committee, Report**

 **Ms PUGH** (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (11.59 am): I am delighted to rise and speak to the estimates process for the Cost of Living and Economics Committee, which was ably chaired by Mr Linus Power, the member for Logan. Today I am really excited to be speaking about what matters for Queensland and what matters for my community in Mount Ommaney. I will start with the 50-cent fares, which has been an absolute game changer and revolutionary in my community of Mount Ommaney.

I have been out and about, at the train stations and on the doors, talking to people. In Riverhills I met a young lady who is a little bit younger than me. She is a homeowner. Previously, she had been catching the bus all the way into the city because that was the cheapest way for her to get to work, even though it was not the quickest way. With the introduction of 50-cent fares she has changed the way she gets to work. She catches the bus to the Darra train station and then catches the train all the way into the city. Every single day she is saving 10 minutes and she is also saving a lot of money, which will add up to thousands of dollars a year for her family. She is obviously over the moon.

Last weekend I was at the Centenary Christian Kindergarten for their open day. They are absolutely delighted with free kindy. It means they have pretty much a full complement of enrolments. It was the busiest open day I can remember them having. I think in large part that is due to the fact that it is a fabulous kindy and also families now know that they can access free kindy for their little ones. It really is a game changer for Queensland kids because now every single Queensland child can start school with the same level of education, which makes things easier for both our prep teachers and our parents. I am sure members can tell that, as I know you are, Mr Deputy Speaker, I am really passionate about this because shortly my youngest child, Elyse, will be the beneficiary of kindy. I am really excited to see that journey for her.

I often hear parents talk about satellite hospitals. A few months ago at the library I ran into a mum who told me that her daughter had a sore arm. She said it was not something that she wanted to go to the emergency room for because she did not feel it was an emergency. I suggested that she take her daughter to the satellite hospital in Ripley, which had recently opened. She drove to Ripley and had her daughter checked out. It turned out that her arm was not broken. However, the mother was quite concerned so to be able to get that reassurance for free and on a weekend when a GP was not available gave her huge peace of mind. I often promote satellite hospitals around school holiday time because that is when kids are doing physical activities more so than normal and might need to go to a satellite hospital. Another parent told me that when their child had a sore arm it was broken. They went to their local satellite hospital where that was picked up, which was fantastic.

I referred to kids doing physical activities, which is when they can use the \$200 FairPlay vouchers. All Queensland kids are eligible to apply for those vouchers.

**Mr Stevens:** They can get in the game.

**Ms PUGH:** That is exactly right, member for Mermaid Beach; they can get in the game. It is great to hear your support for this fantastic initiative and 200,000 kids are eligible. It is trophy season in my electorate. Last weekend I was at St Cats. We know that our sport clubs create strong communities and strong family bonds, especially when the families get involved in volunteering. It is really important that we give every single Queensland kid the opportunity to participate. Those \$200 vouchers will cover about 50 per cent of the fee for joining one of my local soccer clubs such as Oxley United or St Cats because they work really hard to keep their fees low.

I have to mention the \$1,000 that will come off every single Queensland household energy bill. I spoke to a fellow from Darra last week. He had already had that money taken off his bill and he was so excited. He really appreciated that he did not have to do anything. He did not have to put in any forms. He just had to keep an eye on his energy bill to make sure that the money had come off.

What is really important and something that I think we all need to acknowledge is how we are paying for this. Our Miles government is making multinationals pay their fair share. Billions of dollars over the forward estimates are going towards this cost-of-living relief and critical infrastructure projects such as the Centenary Bridge upgrade in my electorate. Those opposite need to be clear where they stand on this policy because coal royalties are improving the lives of everyday Queenslanders. I back them every day of the week because, when it comes to choosing between multinationals and my community, it is my community that is going to win for me every day of the week.