




Speech By
Joseph Kelly

MEMBER FOR GREENSLOPES

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PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Cost of Living

 **Mr KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (3.00 pm): I can see the member for Condamine cannot wait for my contribution. It is always great to have him in the House. When Labor was elected in 2015 there were a couple of big challenges. Unemployment was high, there was no meaningful action on climate change, public services had been gutted and demoralised and community services had been gagged and defunded. Labor rose to those challenges: getting more Queenslanders into jobs, rebuilding our health, education and public services and helping our community services to get back on their feet, even if at times they did not agree with us.

Just today, the passage of the Clean Economy Jobs Bill and the Energy (Renewable Transformation and Jobs) Bill shows that Labor is continuing to take real action in relation to climate change. While people in my community are going to be absolutely thrilled that we are taking this action and will have a sector-by-sector plan to decarbonise our economy—we certainly have more to do in relation to climate change—there are also other issues.

Cost of living is the No. 1 issue that people have been raising with me for the last 18 months. Our Miles Labor government has the largest cost-of-living relief package in Australia. The Miles Labor government has been rolling out a range of cost-of-living measures. Some measures, such as the electricity rebate scheme and the energy efficient appliance scheme, have been either universally applied or universally available. One of the key features of these measures is that they deliver cost-of-living relief without putting inflation up.

All of our cost-of-living measures, in addition to avoiding inflationary pressures, achieve other policy outcomes. The Battery Booster program assists people with the cost of living and also helps to tackle climate change. The Free Kindy program we offer is aimed at assisting all families with the cost of living, and also helps 8,000 extra kids into kindy, which is great for those kids and it is great for our society. Our free spectacle program is aimed at cost-of-living relief for older Queenslanders, but we also know it will reduce falls and that will reduce the burden on our healthcare system, which will be good for those people.

We know our free TAFE programs are going to get young Queenslanders into the workforce. We can see, through the Clean Economy Jobs Bill that passed through this House today, that we are going to need a lot more people trained up and skilled right across the board and TAFE will play an important role in that. There are so many more cost-of-living measures I could talk about, but due to time I will not get there. I certainly know that the people in my community are always looking for more relief at this time and I will be talking to the Premier and the Deputy Premier about that.

Even though cost of living is the No. 1 issue in our communities, I seldom hear the LNP talk about it. Perhaps that is because they are the No.1 risk when it comes to providing relief on cost of living. The member for Chatsworth spilled the beans on the planned cuts. He got the pruning shears out and told us that there are going to be gentle cuts coming our way. The Leader of the Opposition is slavishly panting around the coal lobby and we know they will get rid of the progressive coal royalties. Only Labor is taking real action on the cost of living and will continue to take action on the cost of living. Only Labor will put Queenslanders first.