



Speech By  
**Hon. Leanne Enoch**


**MEMBER FOR ALGESTER**

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Record of Proceedings, 2 May 2024

## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

### **Cost of Living**

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algester—ALP) (Minister for Treaty, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Minister for Communities and Minister for the Arts) (10.37 am): Our government knows that national cost-of-living pressures mean more Queenslanders than ever are turning to government and non-government services for assistance. While visiting neighbourhood centres, emergency relief providers and community organisations right across the state, I have seen and heard firsthand how the demand for cost-of-living relief support has increased. That is why the new Miles government is delivering record cost-of-living relief to help vulnerable Queenslanders wherever we can. Some families and individuals are experiencing financial stress for the first time and are turning to support services for help.

To assist with financial literacy and resilience, the Miles government is investing over \$7 million for these services statewide. These programs help Queenslanders improve their financial knowledge, access affordable financial products and manage the factors that are contributing to their financial difficulties. Importantly, we are also funding 193 providers across the state to deliver emergency relief funding to those who need it most. We doubled the funding to emergency relief providers in 2022-23 as a direct response to the calls of service providers, like our incredible neighbourhood centres. In 2023-24 we provided a further \$3.3 million to expand the emergency relief response across the state.

I have heard the stories of Queenslanders from right across the state—from Anglicare in Rockhampton, Centacare in Cairns, ECHO in Malanda and Belong in my electorate, to name just a few—about the growing pressures that families and individuals are experiencing. When we hear stories like these right across Queensland we know that more needs to be done. That is exactly why the Miles Labor government is taking \$1,000 off every Queenslanders' power bill from 1 July.

The new Miles government has listened to Queenslanders and is delivering the biggest cost-of-living relief measure in Queensland's history. This initiative means the average household will not pay a cent on their next quarterly energy bill after 1 July. It is only because our government has delivered progressive coal royalties that we are able to take direct action and put more money back in the pockets of Queenslanders. We can only do this because we have kept our energy assets in public hands. Programs like free kindy, free TAFE and freezing car rego are all made possible by our coal royalties and because we own our energy assets.

New Premier Steven Miles and Labor are delivering more money directly back to Queenslanders. Those opposite do not want Queenslanders getting their fair share of resource profits and they have continually voted against keeping energy assets in public hands. Only the new Miles Labor government can be trusted to keep our assets in public hands and deliver cost-of-living relief to Queenslanders.