



Speech By  
**Hon. Leeanne Enoch**


**MEMBER FOR ALGESTER**

---

Record of Proceedings, 11 June 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) (9.54 am): Queenslanders have told us that national cost-of-living pressures are impacting their ability to be able to meet the demands of household bills. That is why we have seen record investment in cost-of-living measures already announced from this year's budget—from our \$1,000 power bill rebate and 50-cent public transport fares, to the 20 per cent reduction in car registration and the \$200 FairPlay vouchers, just to name a few.

We know that another key concern for Queensland communities is rising pressures on the household grocery bill, leading in some instances to food insecurity for families. Increased food insecurity means more Queensland children are potentially starting their school day on an empty stomach. That is why the Miles government has boosted the School and Community Food Relief Program by \$15 million in this year's budget because no child should go to school hungry. We are working with schools across the state, along with charitable organisations, to ensure children have access to adequate levels of food at school, whether that be through the expanded breakfast clubs, the school lunch program or the delivery of healthy food and drink education programs.

The funding boost included in this year's budget also contains \$1.3 million to support food and nutrition awareness and education for families of school-aged children through community focused programs. This is on top of the commitment of \$2.7 million announced in last year's state budget to extend and expand the Miles government's school breakfast programs, particularly in communities experiencing hardship across Queensland. The increased investment in school breakfast programs has seen close to \$200 additional schools supported to deliver school breakfast across the state, on top of the approximately 300 schools already supported through our existing funding. This means more Queensland children than ever are being supported to access healthy food and drink at school, helping to ensure kids can concentrate on learning.

In addition to this important boost in funding, Minister Farmer and I are co-chairing the School and Community Food Taskforce, a cross-sector group which will provide expert advice on options to support access to healthy food and drink for Queensland families, as well as provide the opportunity to share ideas and experiences across government, organisations, logistics and food retailers.

Making sure young Queenslanders have the best opportunities to learn and can learn on a full stomach matters which is why new Premier Steven Miles and our government are committed to this and many other cost-of-living measures. I look forward to seeing the outcomes of these programs in schools across the state.