




Speech By
Hon. Leeanne Enoch

MEMBER FOR ALGESTER

Record of Proceedings, 13 June 2024

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Fagan, Mr C; Budget, 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) (9.57 am): I begin by associating myself with the words of the Minister for Health and you, Mr Speaker, on the sudden passing of Cleveland Fagan and pass on my condolences and deep sympathies to his family and friends. Of course, his loss will be felt right across the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community in Queensland and right across the whole health services community.

The first Miles Labor budget is focused on what matters to Queenslanders. This budget is designed to take the pressure off Queensland households, with \$3.7 billion in new and expanded cost-of-living measures. As we have heard throughout this week, our government is taking action and helping relieve the pressure on electricity bills, reducing transport costs, boosting sport and active recreation for Queensland children, and providing emergency and financial relief to help families in need.

We know as we continue to speak with Queenslanders that not only is it power bills and transport costs on their mind but also many Queenslanders are grappling with the cost of putting food on the table. We know that when people are under pressure facing food insecurity, it means more Queenslanders are going without. As members in this House would know, Meals on Wheels Queensland delivers a vital service across our state, providing around 2.6 million meals to more than 19,000 seniors and people with disability. Earlier this year the Premier and I met with Queensland Meals on Wheels representatives and heard firsthand about the increased demand for their service across the state. The chief executive of Queensland Meals on Wheels, Evan Hill, recently said that Meals on Wheels across Queensland has seen meal numbers grow from two million to 2.7 million over the past three financial years. Meals on Wheels providers are also reporting that they are receiving more inquiries from people outside of aged care.

I am pleased today to say that the Miles Labor government has listened and in this budget we have doubled funding to Queensland Meals on Wheels. The Miles Labor government is investing \$1.2 million over four years to provide ongoing support for the Queensland Meals on Wheels peak body. Not only does Queensland Meals on Wheels provide a vital food service, but they also provide a vital social service, helping to tackle social isolation and loneliness in our communities. Meals on Wheels providers have said that it is not uncommon for a delivery driver dropping off a meal to be sometimes the only person the client sees for that whole entire day. The doubling of funding to the Meals on Wheels peak body means more support to Meals on Wheels services in to our communities who every day touch the lives of so many Queenslanders. Only the Miles Labor government can be trusted to do what matters for Queenslanders.