



Speech By
Hon. Leanne Enoch


MEMBER FOR ALGESTER

Record of Proceedings, 21 August 2024

**APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL
APPROPRIATION BILL**

**Consideration in Detail (Cognate Debate)
Appropriation Bill**

Community Support and Services Committee, Report

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algester—ALP) (Minister for Treaty, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Minister for Communities and Minister for the Arts) (3.30 pm): I rise to speak on the Community Support and Services Committee estimates report. I would particularly like to thank the member for Hervey Bay, the new chair of this committee, for his expert chairing of the hearing. I also thank the deputy chair, the member for Burnett, and committee members for their time. I would like to acknowledge parliamentary staff, the director-general of my department and the many departmental staff, along with my own ministerial office staff, who worked incredibly hard to prepare for the hearing. A lot of work goes into preparing for a few hours in one day to go through all of those questions, so I want to acknowledge them.

The Department of Treaty, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Communities and the Arts reaches every Queenslanders. We are delivering cost-of-living support and inclusivity and we are doing that through essential community services, truth-telling, support for veterans, support for culture and arts, and support for LGBTQIA+ Queenslanders. My department is delivering \$20 million for cost-of-living relief for families, including \$3.3 million for emergency relief providers and \$2.2 million to support financial resilience services. We have allocated \$21.8 million to construction and upgrades of neighbourhood centres.

I am very proud that we recently released Queensland's first LGBTQIA+ Strategy and Action Plan called Pride in our Communities. It is backed by \$1 million in funding to support an LGBTQIA+ Alliance for Queensland as part of this unprecedented strategy and \$200,000 to Brisbane Pride to support regional pride events across Queensland. We have also delivered our first Young Queenslanders Strategy, co-designed with young people to help shape our future.

Another Queensland summer will be with us soon, but I would like to acknowledge that in the last disaster season over 377,000 Queenslanders received over \$80 million in personal hardship assistance. That is more than the last three seasons combined. We increased the maximum funding for structural repairs under the jointly funded Commonwealth and state Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements from \$50,000 to \$80,000 per household. I know that will make a big difference to those who have been impacted.

We have boosted the School and Community Food Relief Program by \$15 million in addition to \$2.7 million to extend the School Breakfast Program. Our School and Community Food Taskforce provides cross-sector expertise on better access to healthy food. As part of the Miles Labor government's \$501.98 million Putting Queensland Kids First initiative, we will invest \$15 million in

partnership with community organisations for additional support services. We continue to support Queensland's veterans and their families with more than \$4.9 million and \$1.23 million a year ongoing for the Queensland Veterans' Council.

This month marked the United Nations day of Indigenous peoples, and I am very pleased to inform the House that this year's Miles government budget delivered more than \$23 million to support First Nations Queenslanders through Closing the Gap initiatives. This parliament voted with bipartisan support to pass the Path to Treaty Act in May last year to establish the Truth-telling and Healing Inquiry, which started its work on 1 July. We have endorsed \$40 million for the First Nations Treaty Institute, \$56 million for the Truth-telling and Hearing Inquiry and \$18 million over four years to help Queenslanders share their stories with the inquiry. That is a very important part of understanding our history.

Our government is committed to the repatriation of ancestral remains and secret/sacred objects through the Queensland Museum. We have seen \$4.6 million over five years to amplify the Queensland Museum's repatriation activity, which has now established an historic agreement with the Museum of Vancouver for the return of First Nations artefacts. As a result of that, there is international interest in similar agreements. We have also invested in the arts with our ongoing commitment for the Creative Together strategy.

There were not a lot of questions about all of those things I just mentioned. The statement of reservation from the LNP is a pretty lazy statement of reservation, I have to say. In fact, on the day, most of my questions were about whether I had been still meeting with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who actually work in the department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander partnerships, which I found very strange. The other major part of my questioning was about the argument about what kind of training is appropriate. I had invited the member for Surfers Paradise to undertake some cultural awareness training. It would appear from estimates that it is needed now more than ever. I hope he takes up that offer going forward.

Other than that, I do want to say that the hearing was conducted in a very respectful way. I look forward to that same respect carrying on with regard to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander affairs.

(Time expired)