




Speech By
Hon. Leeanne Enoch

MEMBER FOR ALGESTER

Record of Proceedings, 21 August 2024

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Cost of Living

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Alger—ALP) (Minister for Treaty, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Minister for Communities and Minister for the Arts) (10.08 am): The Miles Labor government is doing what matters for Queenslanders, delivering cost-of-living relief and supporting those who need it most. On top of our record cost-of-living measures, including taking \$1,000 off every Queensland household's power bill, delivering 50-cent fares and reducing rego by 20 per cent, my department is delivering key measures to support Queenslanders in need. The Miles government is focused on increased investment in frontline agencies to support Queenslanders who need it most, including those experiencing financial hardship and food insecurity. We are continuing to invest in our network of 128 state funded neighbourhood centres, which are inclusive and welcoming spaces for everyone, providing vital services to support the cost of living and addressing social isolation and loneliness.

We are investing \$3.57 million over the next two years in OzHarvest and SecondBite that will support more Queenslanders in accessing these vital food recovery and distribution services. We are providing an additional \$2.88 million over the next four years to support Foodbank Queensland in establishing a new distribution hub in Townsville and expanding warehouse capacity here in Brisbane. We are investing \$3.3 million across 195 emergency relief services across Queensland to support those in immediate financial crisis. We know that, while immediate support is needed, including emergency relief, Queenslanders also need support with their longer term and often complex financial situations. Our investment of \$2.2 million to continue the Queensland Financial Resilience Program will help these longer term solutions, providing financial counselling in priority areas across Queensland—something that I imagine is particularly important for Queenslanders who may have been impacted by, let us say, unscrupulous business operators in our state, particularly those we have been hearing about over the last couple of days.

The Miles Labor government is doing what matters, delivering these critical cost-of-living measures, supporting those in need and providing relief for those who need it the most. Only a Labor government will continue to invest in and strengthen the community services sector. I look forward to updating the House on the positive impacts of this important investment.