




Speech By  
**Margaret Nightingale**

**MEMBER FOR INALA**

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Record of Proceedings, 14 June 2024

**APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL; APPROPRIATION BILL; REVENUE  
AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL; STATE FINANCIAL  
INSTRUCTIONS AND METWAY MERGER AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Ms NIGHTINGALE** (Inala—ALP) (4.32 pm): I rise to support the first budget of the Miles Labor government. It is a great budget for Queensland, informed by what truly matters to Queenslanders. That is evident in the focus of this budget: cost-of-living relief. This relief is what the people in my electorate of Inala have told me is a priority. It is life-changing and will positively impact every household. In fact, everywhere I turn in Inala is a resident who is better off because of what the Miles Labor government is delivering—from free kindy, free TAFE, school breakfasts and lunches to the nation-leading electricity rebates that every household in Queensland will receive. There is cost-of-living support for everyone—support that matters to household budgets, health and the futures of Queenslanders. Vulnerable households will receive even more support. For vulnerable Queenslanders such as Vincent in Inala, total electricity rebates of \$1,672 matter. The cost-of-living relief matters to Rumya whose Richlands coffee shop will benefit from the \$650 of energy rebates for small businesses.

We did not stop there. We recognised the burden of transportation costs on Queenslanders, particularly those who live in outer suburbs such as Inala. That is why we are slashing rego fees by 20 per cent and dropping Translink fares to a flat 50 cents, no matter where people live or how far they travel. I sat down with one family in Forest Lake who have three adult children living at home. We worked out that these two measures alone will save their household over \$2,500 in the next six months. It will also mean that Sarah will not need to choose between buying the textbooks she needs for university or paying for the transport to get there—now she can do both.

The Miles Labor government knows what matters to Queenslanders, and we are backing them with this budget. In stark contrast, however, are those opposite who did not care about what mattered to the people of Queensland when they sacked 14,000 public servants. Yet yesterday the Leader of the Opposition had the hide to talk about what matters. Well, let me say what matters to them. Until the election it is saying whatever it takes to achieve a vote winning narrative. After the election, what matters to LNP members is the bottom line of their big business mates. We know this because when the Labor government introduced the mental health levy—a levy that is funding support to some of the most vulnerable people in our community—the Leader of the Opposition decided to back big business instead of this levy and the mental health care that matters.

I will respond to the Leader of the Opposition who yesterday urged us to remember those who matter. I remember who matters—young people who need mental health care; young people of the Barrett Adolescent Centre and their families. The Leader of the Opposition would have the good people of Queensland believe that, suddenly, the LNP cares, but I remember that many who sit opposite are the same people who in their first year as part of the Newman government gutted \$45 million from mental health. This was the same government in which Lawrence Springborg, whom the member for Kawana now labels the 'best health minister in Queensland's history', closed the Barrett Adolescent

Centre against expert advice, subsequently resulting in the tragic deaths of three young people. I remember when these young people themselves tried to tell him that they mattered. When they stood in front of the then minister for health pleading with him not to close—

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Lui): Members, I am struggling to hear the member on her feet. Member for Inala, you have the call.

**Ms NIGHTINGALE:** I remember when those young people stood in front of the then minister for health pleading with him not to close the Barrett Adolescent Centre, pleading for him to help them stay alive. Their pleas did not matter to the LNP. They did not matter to the Leader of the Opposition. I was there when the LNP were told what mattered by experts—clinicians, families, teachers—and patients yet this was ignored. It simply did not matter enough to them. Instead, they cut and they closed. Those young people mattered. They are why I am here in this chamber today. I remember them and I remember the actions of those who sit opposite. I can hear them now. They ought to be ashamed to talk now about doing what matters when they failed so tragically to do so when they had the chance.

Yesterday I heard those opposite, including the member for Clayfield who I remember was the Treasurer behind these tragic cuts, talking about how past behaviour is an indicator of future behaviour. I am here to remind everyone of the shameful past behaviour of this opposition. Let it be a warning about their future behaviour. If the LNP win government, they will cut, close, sack and sell. That is why the LNP wants the focus to be on Labor's record and not theirs. I will proudly stand by Labor's record over that of the LNP any day. Only the Miles Labor government will deliver what matters for my community of Inala and for Queensland. I commend this budget to the House.