




Speech By
Hon. Michael Healy

MEMBER FOR CAIRNS

Record of Proceedings, 11 June 2024

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Children, Sport and Recreation

 **Hon. MP HEALY** (Cairns—ALP) (Minister for Tourism and Sport) (9.49 am): The Miles government is putting Queensland children first by helping hardworking families get their kids involved in sport and active recreation which we know is so vitally important. Since 2019, our enormously successful FairPlay program has seen more than 210,000 vouchers, worth over \$30 million, redeemed by eligible Queensland families. This has helped contribute toward the cost of sport and active recreation membership, registration and, just as importantly, participation fees. However, we have listened to the feedback from Queensland families who have constantly told us that FairPlay vouchers need to be more than \$150 and have requested that we expand the program to include everybody.

I am very pleased and proud to stand here today to inform the House that from 1 July this year, every Queensland child between five and 17 will be eligible to access this important program. Through the state budget, FairPlay is expanding by a further \$33.5 million. It is now a \$40 million boost for families right across Queensland for the 2024-25 financial year. The value of these vouchers will increase from \$150 to \$200, and the number of vouchers will also increase from 50,000 to 200,000, ensuring more Queensland kids can participate in the activity of their choice. Importantly, up to 50,000 of these vouchers will remain guaranteed for those under the current eligibility criteria.

Mr Speaker, you and I and many in this chamber know the power that sport has in helping shape young lives and benefiting their physical and mental health development. It is absolutely fundamental. The Miles government knows that families are doing their best to manage the cost-of-living pressures, and we are helping to break down the financial barriers because being active should not be limited to those who can afford it. Cost-of-living action is at the heart of this budget, along with building the infrastructure we need for our growing state and investing in our greatest asset—our children. This is the biggest cost-of-living relief package ever for Queensland, helping the household bills and putting downward pressure on inflation.