




Speech By
Hon. Michael Healy

MEMBER FOR CAIRNS

Record of Proceedings, 21 August 2024

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

FairPlay Vouchers

 **Hon. MP HEALY** (Cairns—ALP) (Minister for Tourism and Sport) (10.05 am): New Premier Steven Miles is doing what matters for Queenslanders by putting Queensland families first—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Sorry, Minister. Do honourable members know what I do not like? I do not like interjections at all, but I would like to hear the minister on his feet. Minister, please feel free to start again.

Mr HEALY: Thank you, Mr Speaker. New Premier Steven Miles is doing what matters for Queensland by putting Queensland families first in helping to address the cost of living through the FairPlay program and this has turned out to be an enormously successful program. FairPlay helps to contribute towards the cost of sport and active recreation membership, registration and participation fees for Queensland kids.

Since 2019, FairPlay has been so successful for eligible families that from July this year, the Miles government opened up the program to all Queensland kids aged between five and 17, with vouchers worth up to \$200. That is a significant investment because we recognise the importance of this. Through the state budget we expanded the program by \$33.5 million to become a \$40 million boost for families right across Queensland.

Today I am pleased to inform the House that the take-up in this round has been nothing short of spectacular. In fact, it is been so successful that while the program was expanded to make 200,000 vouchers available to Queensland families, we have listened and expanded this further due to overwhelming demand. So far, more than 237,000 vouchers have been issued, with almost 50,000 already redeemed. That means 50,000 Queensland kids are now set to get on the cricket field, on the netball or basketball court, or to take part in abseiling or even orienteering.

A government member: Soccer.

Mr HEALY: That is true, soccer—we could rattle them all off if we needed to. Many of these kids might not have otherwise had the opportunity to be involved if not for FairPlay. This is such an important initiative and I can tell honourable members that we are a government that gets it.

It is important to note that up to 50,000 vouchers were guaranteed to those under the previous eligibility criteria for those kids whose parents, guardians or carers hold an eligible concession card or have a referral agent, which is just as important. In the current round, more than 33,000 vouchers have been issued to these families who are doing it particularly tough. Prior to this round, FairPlay had seen more than 210,000 vouchers, worth over \$30 million, redeemed by those eligible Queensland families, making an enormous difference in their life and injecting positive influences in their life.

Every child should have the opportunity to play sport and be active, and FairPlay is helping to make that possible for families right across the state.