




Speech By
Tom Smith

MEMBER FOR BUNDABERG

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PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Miles Labor Government

 **Mr SMITH** (Bundaberg—ALP) (2.16 pm): This term I have kept my promise to the people of Bundaberg to always be doorknocking, because when you doorknock you can get the pulse of the community and know what they are talking about. What they are talking about to me is cost-of-living relief. They want to make sure that our government is holding the big supermarkets responsible for the pressures they are putting on families and farmers, and that is exactly what we are doing.

They are talking about electricity rebates because they know that good governments invest in community. One of the ways you invest in community is through making sure the power bills are low when they have to pay them. That is why we have put forward those record-breaking electricity rebates and that is why I will be fighting to see those in the next budget—and increased as well—because that is what helps our community.

That is why we are putting in free kindy so that our young people can get the best start to life and we can help families right across regional Queensland. It is outstanding to hear that parents, grandparents and great-grandparents are so happy that their young ones are getting a head start with free kindy. It is why we are doing free TAFE.

When I was doorknocking throughout Millbank the other week, I met young Emmett, an 18-year-old enjoying free TAFE. He even stopped to say how great it was, so well done, young fellow. The problem for young Emmett is that, if the LNP get their way, free TAFE will be gone. He will be washed aside because that is what they do in the regions. We saw it under the Newman government. We know their record. We know that they are lining up and salivating to cut, to sack and to sell the programs that we put in to protect people in regional Queensland.

We know what their plans are because they have been revealed. They were revealed by an embarrassed member for Burnett who continues to give up the LNP's secrets. He said that he wants to break the back of unrealistic entitlements of Queensland Health workers, the same Queensland Health workers who they sacked—345 workers across the Wide Bay. The member for Maryborough knows that very well. That is their plan. That is what they want to do.

What about housing? What is their plan for housing? We have built more social housing in the last year than they delivered in Bundaberg in 2½ years in government. Now, the member for Burnett is criticising our plan to put modular housing into the mix. That is what the LNP are all about. They are about the cut, they are about the sack, they are about the sell.

What about the hospitals? We have heard the Leader of the Opposition say what his plan is for hospitals. He is going to fund the front line by taking from the back of house. They are his words. He said on Brisbane radio that they are going to take from the back of house to fund the front line. If you are an admin worker, a kitchen staff worker, a laundry worker or a maintenance worker, your job is

under threat come October because of the LNP. We know that is their record. Every single Queensland worker in this state should be lining up in October to make sure that we keep our Bundaberg community strong. Let us all make sure that we never, ever let the LNP back into government in Queensland.