



Speech By  
**Bisma Asif**


**MEMBER FOR SANDGATE**

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Record of Proceedings, 18 February 2025

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Cost-of-Living Relief**

 **Ms ASIF** (Sandgate—ALP) (9.01 pm): I welcome the Reserve Bank's decision to lower the cash rate today, a decision that brings much needed relief to the hardworking families in my electorate of Sandgate. This rate reduction is clear evidence that our former Labor government was making the right economic decisions, such as providing much needed cost-of-living relief to Queenslanders. I acknowledge the good work of the federal Labor government. It is due to their decisions and things they have done to help families across our country and in Queensland that we have seen the first rate cut in four years. For someone in my electorate with a mortgage of \$500,000, this will mean savings of about \$960 a year. We are also seeing inflation trending down and wages are going up.

What this LNP government did not want to talk about when they inflated the debt figures for Queensland was the positive economic outlook. There was no mention or acknowledgement from them on the great work the former Labor government did to lower unemployment. This reduction in interest rates presents real progress for families in my community, families like Peter from Bracken Ridge who came to see me at one of my mobile offices recently at Guru's Cafe at the Bracken Ridge Plaza. Peter asked me to keep this LNP government honest and to continue fighting for struggling families in our community.

I must speak of the devastating impact of the housing pressures that continue to grip our suburbs and the impact it is having on our wider community across the electorate of Sandgate. In my electorate, I regularly meet constituents who are sleeping rough, families forced to share overcrowded homes and young people who see the dream of home ownership slipping away from their reach. The rate cut we welcomed today, while significant, does not address all the challenges facing Queensland families, which is why I call on the Premier and this LNP government to stop sitting on their hands and deliver meaningful cost-of-living action and support for Queenslanders.

The previous Labor government worked to ease cost-of-living pressures, tackled housing pressures and delivered real economic reform, in contrast with this new government which offers nothing but empty rhetoric and inaction. Every week in my electorate office, I hear stories of housing stress. I see the human impact of this crisis. Queenslanders deserve better from their government. In a housing and cost-of-living crisis, this LNP government has done nothing but cut funding to specialist homelessness services, services which are vital in my community to help people deal with the significant housing pressures that they are facing. The Premier likes to talk about Queensland's prosperity, but I ask prosperity for whom? Where is the action on housing? Where is the action and plan to address homelessness? I call on this LNP government to match Labor's commitment to address housing and cost-of-living pressures. My community of Sandgate and, indeed, all Queenslanders deserve more.