




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR MANSFIELD

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PRIVATE MEMBER STATEMENT

Mansfield Electorate, Cost-of-Living Relief

 **Ms McMILLAN** (Mansfield—ALP) (2.36 pm): The people of the Mansfield electorate are working hard yet finding it increasingly difficult to make ends meet. Families can no longer rely on their fortnightly pay to cover basic expenses. The cost of living continues to rise and the government's response has been nothing short of inadequate. The pressure is mounting, and more people than ever are slipping into housing stress and even homelessness. Despite these struggles, the government has failed to deliver the relief that families so desperately need.

For example, on the issue of energy costs, the Premier promised to lower energy bills for Queenslanders, but that promise has not been kept. In fact, the opposite is happening. For families in the south-east, electricity bills will rise by \$77 at least and even more for those in regional areas. Despite the government's claims, most householders will receive no rebate at all. This is a government that says one thing but delivers another, leaving Queenslanders to bear the brunt of rising energy prices. Then there is the strain on household budgets. The costs of groceries, rents and mortgages are all going up. For too many working families, pay cheques do not stretch far enough to cover the basics. People who have worked hard all their lives are wondering how they will make it through to the next pay fortnight.

The concessions offered by the Crisafulli government have declined from those delivered in 2024. Labor understood that householders needed targeted support mechanisms such as rebates and discounts that help Queenslanders on low incomes stay afloat during financial hardship. That is why Labor delivered \$200 FairPlay vouchers, energy bill rebates, vehicle registration discounts, 50-cent fares and more health care close to home. Essential services are stretched thin, working families are being left behind, health care is under pressure and communities like mine are seeing cuts to services that matter the most such as bus services and the Mount Gravatt nurse-led clinic. Extended hours were something that made those services so valuable, yet the hours have been slashed despite the overwhelming demand. The people who rely on those services are the same people being ignored by this government.

In my electorate, we need a government that understands the everyday struggles of working Queenslanders. We need a government that is not just about promises but also about delivering real and tangible relief. Whether it is through reducing energy costs, easing financial pressure on households or protecting vital health services, the people of my electorate deserve a government that puts their needs first. The people of Mansfield are working hard. Unemployment is low and they are doing their best. They deserve a government that steps up and delivers the relief that they need.