



Speech By
Janelle Poole

MEMBER FOR MUNDINGBURRA

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ADJOURNMENT

Veteran Support

 **Mrs POOLE** (Mundingburra—LNP) (9.29 pm): There is no comparison to the sacrifice of our men and women who bravely serve on the front line to defend our country. They go willingly without complaint, not knowing if they will return. It is only fair that both state and federal governments support them. That is why the axing of \$1.5 million from the Salvation Army's Sallyman program by the federal Labor government is extremely disappointing. It is short-sighted, it shows a complete lack of understanding of the vital support it provides, and it lets down the very people who have given so much in service to our nation.

The Salvation Army's Sallymen and Sallyma'ams have been supporting our Australian troops for over 125 years. Their presence reminds our service men and women that they are never alone and that the community stands beside them in appreciation of that service, sacrifice and commitment. It is more than a listening ear, a cold cordial, a cuppa and a biscuit or a word of encouragement; it is an invitation to talk, to start a conversation. This simple but effective program has single-handedly saved countless lives and supported countless others through the support it offers.

That is support you cannot put a price on because it is priceless. I have seen firsthand what this program means to our current service men and women, our veterans, their families and our community. I have watched the Salvation Army's Major Nigel Roden and his Sallyman ute in action. All of the patches that are secured to the inside roof of his vehicle are a reminder of his travels, his connections and the conversations he has had with those young and old—sometimes a casual chat, sometimes a deeper discussion.

This service is invaluable and the federal Labor government has let down all who need this program. This is an historic time in our state, when the Crisafulli government is investing more than ever in our veterans. We have the state's first ever Minister for Veterans in our Premier. We are launching the state's first ever Veterans and Veterans' Families Strategy. We are committed to our veterans, and as the Assistant Minister for Veterans I will not let this go. I will be campaigning and fighting to find a solution to continue this vital service for our veterans.

I want to make it absolutely clear: I will be speaking directly with the Premier to ensure we find a way for the Sallyman and Sallyma'am program to continue. This program is far too important to lose. It provides comfort, care and connection to our defence personnel, our veterans and our community, and I will do everything in my power to see it remain.

(Time expired)