



Speech By  
**Hon. Leanne Linard**


**MEMBER FOR NUDGE**

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**PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT**

**Youth**

 **Hon. LM LINARD** (Nudgee—ALP) (2.49 pm): I am really proud to be the shadow minister for youth in Queensland, because young Queenslanders are incredible. They are astute, frank, fearless, resilient, engaged, creative and passionate, and they want to have a say about the things that matter to them, but they do not feel that this LNP government is listening. They certainly do not think this LNP government is talking about the things that matter to them. Premier David Crisafulli has appointed a Minister for Youth, according to his charter letter, responsible for night-time economy and Youth Parliament, and those things are important. I am a big supporter of Youth Parliament. It provides an incredible opportunity for young people to engage in the parliamentary process. To give the Minister for Youth his due, he always turns up to Youth Parliament and he is a nice guy. It is also his job—and the LNP government's job—to turn up on the things that matter most to young Queenslanders.

What are young people saying? I will relate their words. They are worried about affording a home, yet the 'anti-affordable housing minister' protected a golf course over an affordable housing project, and the first laws the new LNP government passed were to give them powers to axe affordable housing projects. Young Queenslanders tell me they are worried about the environment and climate change, yet those opposite scrapped the Pioneer-Burdekin pumped hydro project and have absolutely no plan for energy transition or to achieve net zero. News flash: sector plans alone will not do it. Those opposite know it. We know it. We know the modelling. Young people are feeling cost-of-living pressures keenly, yet they now have an LNP state government that is not focused on talking about real cost-of-living measures. It will not even answer a question or advocate to the federal LNP to support HECS debt relief—a Labor initiative. Thank you, Albo.

Young people care about access to public health care, yet what we have seen from those opposite is a health minister who has axed pill testing. This is a harm minimisation program which saves lives and is backed by medical professionals. Too bad; it is gone. We have seen hormone therapies for trans youth in Queensland banned, in a decision that is not based on evidence but, rather, ideology. Young people do not need ideology; they need a government that supports them and they deserve a space to be themselves and have their voices heard. Young people care about the education system in Queensland, but the LNP government has no plan or vision. Of course, we cannot blame the education minister: he has told us he is not a teacher—it is not his job. Young Queenslanders deserve so much better and we will not let those opposite forget it.