



Speech By
Hon. Leeanne Enoch

MEMBER FOR ALGESTER

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ADJOURNMENT

Algester Electorate, Southside Seniors Expo

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algester—ALP) (9.14 pm): October is Queensland Seniors Month, a month to celebrate the contributions of older Queenslanders, support social connectedness and promote age-friendly communities across Queensland. As the shadow minister responsible for seniors in this state, on the first day of Queensland Seniors Month my Labor colleagues and I hosted the inaugural Southside Seniors Expo at Calamvale Community College. What an incredible day it was.

We were fortunate to be joined by the federal Treasurer and member for Rankin, the Hon. Jim Chalmers, and the federal aged-care minister, the Hon. Sam Rae, along with local state members of parliament including the Leader of the Opposition, who was given a very warm welcome to the neighbourhood, I have to say. My thanks go to my team, to the volunteers, to the members for Stretton, Toohey, Mansfield and Inala and to the local councillors for Calamvale and Moorooka for their commitment to helping make the day such a huge success.

More than 100 local organisations, businesses and community groups registered to host a stall at the expo, offering valuable information, advice and services to help seniors stay active, connected and supported. A highlight, of course, was the RACQ mobile members unit—a full-sized truck which can accommodate one-on-one meetings for any insurance purposes. I know many participants enjoyed having the chance to speak directly with the RACQ team and have their insurance and banking questions addressed onsite.

With around 700 seniors attending from across the southside, and some as far away as Ninderry and Hatton Vale, the hall was a hub of activity. Feedback from participants for this inaugural event was terrific. Deborah from Ninderry said it was excellent. Mohammad from Drewvale said, 'Couldn't be better.' Brandon said, 'A very well done event. I enjoyed it very much.' Maurice from Acacia Ridge said, 'You did well, really well. It's a great expo.' Trish from Hillcrest said, 'It was great, informative.' Wendee from Acacia Ridge said, 'Excellent event, well done.'

I give a huge shout-out also to Mike Butler and the Volunteer Connect crew for running the sausage sizzle, to Sue Ann from Checkmate Pest Control for sponsoring the sausages and to Jenny Kim and the Coffee Cabin team for keeping us caffeinated. The Parkinson Ukulele Group, also known as PUG, added a touch of music to the morning with a number of performances. Attendees heard from National Seniors Australia about their advocacy work, concessions and tips to save and from Scamwatch on preventing fraud and online scams. The Australian Financial Complaints Authority provided information about financial protections and dispute resolution, and the Office of Fair Trading informed attendees of their consumer rights and how to stay informed and protected.

There was a huge number of sponsors, including National Seniors Australia, Transurban, Grand Plaza, the RED Team and Swanborough Funerals, and many others donated an incredible number of prizes. It was a fantastic event. We are looking forward to doing it again. The Labor opposition values the contribution of our senior community members, and Labor will always support our seniors.

(Time expired)