Speech By

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MEMBER FOR INALA

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ADJOURNMENT

Motor Neurone Disease

Mrs NIGHTINGALE (Inala—ALP) (9.06 pm): I rise to speak on a matter that affects the lives of thousands of Queenslanders: the ongoing battle against motor neurone disease, MND, and the battle for funding. We all know that MND is a cruel, life-limiting neurological condition that affects not only the individuals diagnosed but also their families and communities. It robs people of their independence, their mobility and, tragically, their lives. While there is currently no cure, we know that, with the right support, care and resources, we can improve the quality of life for those living with this devastating disease.

Recently, I had the privilege of visiting MND Queensland, a service in my electorate that is essential to the people of Queensland with MND, their families and their carers. MND Queensland is recognised as the state's leading MND support organisation with its in-house multidisciplinary team dedicated to providing a range of individualised services and supports. During my visit I met with Stacey Thorpe, the CEO, and heard about their in-house team, which does great work providing support and equipment for sufferers across Queensland.

The Miles Labor government recognised how essential this service is and committed to fund MND Queensland. Under Labor, MND Queensland would have received $600,000 per year for the next four years. Under the Crisafulli LNP government, guess what—this funding has been cut. This government has failed this organisation and it has failed Queenslanders with MND. I call on the Crisafulli LNP government to match the former Labor government's commitment and provide this desperately needed funding, not cut the funding. The funding is for telehealth-based support, for much needed counselling services for individuals and their families and for the provision of crucial equipment for those in urgent need. Cutting the funding will impact significantly on those who are isolated in rural and remote parts of Queensland.

I know that cutting is in the Crisafulli government's DNA, but I urge the Crisafulli government to step up and fund this great organisation. These services are vital and enable those with MND to maintain as much independence and quality of life as possible. Tragically, there is no cure for this disease and it seems there is no cure for the Crisafulli cuts that have only just begun.