



Speech By
Margaret Nightingale

MEMBER FOR INALA

Record of Proceedings, 16 September 2025

ADJOURNMENT

Inala Community Hub

 **Mrs NIGHTINGALE** (Inala—ALP) (9.17 pm): I rise today to acknowledge the great work of the Inala community hub. This hub serves one of Queensland's lowest socio-economic communities. It supports families from refugee and migrant backgrounds, many of whom face language barriers, financial stress and challenges with their children's schooling. Community hubs are a proven, evidence-based model embedded in 100 schools nationwide. Deloitte's 2023 evaluation found that hubs deliver \$3.50 in social benefits for every dollar invested. The outcomes speak for themselves: improved school readiness; stronger English language skills; higher parental engagement; and increased employment opportunities. I want to put on record my thanks to the hub and those involved for their hard work and dedication.

I also rise tonight to call out the government's shameful decision to end state funding for the Inala community hub after 2025. In the last year alone the Inala hub engaged 113 families, delivered over 300 activities, made referrals to vital services and partnered with 14 local organisations. It even supported participants into jobs. All of this has been achieved on modest funding, including the \$10,000 annual contribution from the Queensland government, which I might add is around the cost of catering for the cabinet committee meetings during the same period.

The Crisafulli government is stripping \$10,000 away from families who need it most. This government claims to care about education, but when it comes time to put its money where it matters it turns its back on Inala. Cutting this modest \$10,000 contribution is short-sighted and cruel. It abandons the very families who most need support, undermines the teachers and schools trying to engage those families and sends a message to multicultural communities in Inala that they do not matter to this government.

School engagement is one of the strongest protective factors against young people becoming involved in the youth justice system. Community hubs drive that engagement by preparing children for school, connecting parents and helping families settle and succeed. Cutting this funding undermines that protective factor and leaves vulnerable young people behind.

The government claims to care about education and youth crime but its actions tell a different story. It is funding hubs in communities like Logan and Ipswich while abandoning Inala. Ten thousand dollars is a small investment, and I will not stand by without urging the government to reverse its decision and fund Inala's community hub.