




Speech By
Hon. Tim Mander

MEMBER FOR EVERTON

Record of Proceedings, 24 June 2025

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Play On! Vouchers

 **Hon. TL MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (Minister for Sport and Racing and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games) (10.10 am): This budget is delivering assistance to families to get more kids active and more kids into community sport. A key measure in the Queensland budget is our new \$200 Play On! sports vouchers, building on a program the LNP started 10 years ago. Currently, around 30 per cent of Queensland children are not physically active outside of school hours. That is why we are investing a record \$62.5 million every year to provide 312,500 vouchers to Queensland families. These new vouchers will be available over two rounds for summer or winter sports. Queensland families will be able to use these vouchers to assist with registration and other costs for children between the ages of five and 17.

We are also making sports more accessible for more Queensland children through this program. Currently, an estimated 75 per cent of people with a disability in Australia would like to participate in physical activity but only 25 per cent of people with a disability do so. With this in mind, an allocation of vouchers will be reserved for children and young people with a disability. We will target unique activity providers with accessible sport opportunities. We will ensure that every child with a disability who wants to play sport will have access to these vouchers.

There will also be a dedicated allocation to children living in regional and country areas across Queensland to level the playing field and ensure that everybody has an equal opportunity to engage in sport. One of the best games' legacies we can deliver is having more Queensland kids more active and living healthier lives. The Crisafulli government will do this by ensuring our young people have access to community sport and better grassroots infrastructure.

Parents and carers will be able to receive one voucher per financial year per child, with the first round opening on 4 August. Today I am pleased to say that since we announced the program almost 18,000 Queensland families have preregistered. This is a ringing endorsement of our new policy. From football to netball, tennis, cricket, gymnastics and even surf lifesaving, Queensland children will have more opportunities to use these vouchers, get active and lead healthier lives. Play On! vouchers are about putting more kids on the field rather than watching from the sidelines.

These sports vouchers were introduced in Queensland by the LNP government in 2013 because LNP governments are progressive and transformational. Under the former government's scheme, the vouchers were fair in name but not in nature. There was no equitable system for distribution right across the state. There was bias towards one season of sport. Of course, like most of their programs and promises they were not funded beyond 30 June this year. As is the case with the LNP's new policy of permanent 50-cent public transport fares, we will fund this right through to 2028.

Our new program will reach more Queensland children than ever before. Through our sports programs Games On! and Play On! the Crisafulli government will make the biggest investment in grassroots sports in Queensland's history. We want to make Queensland the undeniable home of Australian sport, and these measures will play a key role in achieving that goal. From grassroots to the elite level of sport, the Crisafulli government is delivering for Queensland.

Queenslanders sent Steven Miles to the sin-bin in the 2024 state election. The Crisafulli government's first budget will ensure that Queensland kids can Play On!