



Speech By
Bisma Asif

MEMBER FOR SANDGATE

Record of Proceedings, 5 March 2026

ADJOURNMENT

Sandgate Electorate

 **Ms ASIF** (Sandgate—ALP) (9.03 pm): I rise to speak about the hundreds of people in my community who have been reaching out to me through my community survey about the issues that are impacting them. To no-one's surprise, those issues are the rising cost of living, access to housing and homelessness in our community.

Those people in my community are asking for support from their government but they have seen nothing. They saw a government that made shiny promises at the election—saying they would tackle the cost of living—but they have had no relief. They saw a government that said they would build houses, but the government have only taken credit for the homes that were commissioned under a Labor government. The government members are there to cut the ribbons, but they are not providing.

I get people knocking on my office door every day because they need support. They cannot afford their rent, they cannot get into a home and they cannot afford to pay their electricity bills. Amongst them are Brian and Karen, who are pensioners from the suburb of Brighton. Brian came to me in desperation because his rent recently increased by \$120 a week—that is a week, not a month. Brian and Karen are both pensioners who worked hard their entire lives to make a wage; they contributed to our community and to Queensland's economy. Brian said he got up every day and went to work and paid his taxes, but now, at a time when he and his partner Karen receive a pension, they have been hit with this huge increase that they cannot afford. They are at a loss at what to do. They are not getting any assistance and they are not eligible for affordable housing. They did not know where to go or what to do so they came to me for help.

All I can say to Brian and Karen is that I stand with them and I will continue to fight for them every day in this place to get them some support. Too many people like Brian and Karen have come to my office telling me that they are seeking support but are receiving absolutely nothing. People are really struggling with the rising cost of insurance and housing. Where are these people supposed to go when there is no relief from this government? There are families who cannot afford to put food on their table.

Government members interjected.

Ms ASIF: I can hear people on that side saying that it is our fault. You are in government and you are responsible for looking after Queenslanders.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): Member, put your comments through the chair, please.

Ms ASIF: The LNP is in government now so it is the LNP government's responsibility to look after the Queenslanders who are struggling to keep a roof over their head, struggling to feed their kids and struggling to make sure they can work every day. There are people who are losing sleep at night

because they do not know where their next meal will come from, how they will afford their electricity bills or where their rent money will come from. The government need to do better, not just say they are doing things to tackle the cost of living and housing. They need to actually show up with some actions.