




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR MOGGILL

Record of Proceedings, 18 October 2018

PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Australian Pensioners' and Superannuants' League Queensland; Moggill Electorate

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (2.49 pm): Recently I had the great honour as the shadow minister for communities, disability services and seniors to address the annual Australian Pensioners' and Superannuants' League Queensland state conference. While pensions and superannuation have featured heavily in our national news in recent times, the conference held last month was the APSLQ's 70th state conference, with the APSLQ proudly celebrating 73 years in existence—that is, 73 years of consistently advocating for the needs of all seniors. Members of the APSLQ travelled far and wide to attend the conference held in Acacia Ridge, with this year's theme being 'Your Voice', a rather apt theme considering the diverse issues facing our seniors and the various matters raised during the conference.

As the LNP shadow minister, it was a great opportunity to visit this conference and be able to engage with so many seniors as they truly expressed their voice and provided feedback on the issues that concerned them the most. It is perhaps not surprising that one of the key issues that was raised with me was the feeling that Queensland seniors are just not being listened to by the Palaszczuk Labor government. In contrast, the previous LNP government listened to seniors. We took action to help with cost of living by freezing family car registration for three years and by reducing public transport fares to name just a few initiatives but, sadly, this Labor government is not listening and has not been listening for some time.

Seniors have had to contend with car registration costs rising by 3.5 per cent year after year. They have had to scrape and save every dollar for ever-increasing electricity bills and they are having to navigate a health system that has seen the return of ambulance ramping, a blow-out in emergency department wait times and longer surgical waitlists. As the LNP shadow minister for seniors, I am proud to be their voice and I will continue to be their voice for as long as this Labor government refuses to meaningfully act in the best interests of these great Queenslanders. Our Queensland seniors deserve nothing less.

I also want to note that at the recent conference a number of issues were canvassed regarding our aged-care sector, and I again wish to acknowledge and support the positive action taken by the Morrison federal coalition government to address the disturbing reports of elder abuse and neglect by establishing a royal commission into the aged-care sector. I once again thank the APSLQ for its kind invitation to be a part of its state conference and extend my sincere appreciation and congratulations to State President Cherith Weis and Secretary Noela Harvey for organising a terrific conference.

In my remaining time I want to mention two events held last weekend in the electorate of Moggill. Pullenvale on a Platter was held at the Pullenvale Hall. It was a terrific day with emcee ABC journalist Leonie Mellor. I want to congratulate the President of the Pullenvale Progress Association, Julie Smith, as well as Kate Christiansen, Marita Davis, Sophie Weitemeyer, Emma Carsen, Libby Maiden and many others for that terrific event. Also, the Kenmore park kindy celebrated its 50th birthday. I congratulate president Catherine Robertson, vice-president Sarah Lindeman and director Joanne White as well as many others on a great event.