



QUEENSLAND
**COST OF
LIVING
ACTION**

COST OF LIVING ACTION

LOWERING HOUSEHOLD BILLS AND FIGHTING INFLATION

QUEENSLAND BUDGET 2024-25



Queensland
Government

SAVINGS FOR ALL QUEENSLANDERS

QUEENSLAND
**COST OF
LIVING
ACTION**

Lowering household bills and fighting inflation with a **RECORD \$11.218 BILLION** in concessions.

The Queensland Government understands that global and national cost-of-living pressures are causing challenges for many Queenslanders. So, this year's Budget is delivering a record level of help at a time when Queensland households and small businesses need it most.

We are building on our already extensive range of concessions and rebates to deliver a nation-leading, record **\$11.218 billion** in cost-of-living relief.

The 2024–25 Budget has **\$3.739 billion** in new and expanded measures.

The Cost of Living Action package includes:

- giving Queensland households \$1,300 off their electricity bills
- taking 20 per cent off the cost of vehicle registration for 12 months
- providing 50 cent fares for all public transport across the Translink network in Queensland
- \$200 FairPlay vouchers to keep even more Queensland kids active.

This is in addition to the range of other rebates and concessions already on offer, like Free TAFE and Free Kindy.

The government will soon trial a farm gate price monitoring scheme led by the agricultural sector to establish industry pricing standards. Keeping the supermarkets accountable is only one of many ways that we are working tirelessly to take pressure off family budgets.

These measures provide real savings and support Queensland households.

Find out how you can save:

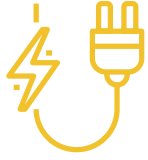
Search **QLD Cost of Living Action** or visit www.qld.gov.au/costoflivingaction

First Nations acknowledgement

Queensland Treasury acknowledges Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the Traditional Owners and custodians of the land. We recognise their connection to land, sea and community, and pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging.



'Rich history, thriving future.'
artwork by David Williams of Gilimbaa.



\$1,300

ELECTRICITY BILL SUPPORT

- All Queensland households will automatically receive \$1,300 off their electricity bills in 2024-25. An upfront \$1,000 Cost of Living Rebate from the Queensland Government, and a \$300 rebate from the Australian Government paid quarterly.
- Vulnerable households will continue to receive the \$372 Queensland Electricity Rebate for a total rebate of \$1,672.
- Around 205,000 eligible small businesses will also continue to receive a \$650 credit on electricity bills in 2024-25, co-funded by the Queensland and Australian governments.



50¢

CHEAPER PUBLIC TRANSPORT FARES

- A flat fare of 50 cents per trip will be applied across the state's Translink public transport network for 6 months from 5 August 2024.
- It's expected this initiative will increase public transport patronage and reduce congestion on Queensland's roads in light of a record in net interstate and overseas migration.



20% OFF

DISCOUNTED VEHICLE REGISTRATION

- Car registration costs will be reduced 20 per cent for 12 months.
- This will start appearing on renewal notices sent to car, motorcycle and trailer owners from 5 August 2024.
- The discount will benefit owners of around 5.7 million vehicles.
- The discount equates to almost \$85 for a 4-cylinder private use vehicle for 12 months.

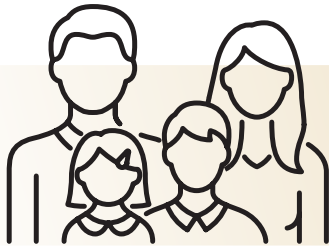


1/2 PRICE

BRISBANE AIRTRAIN DISCOUNTS

- Airtrain tickets to and from Brisbane Airport terminals will be 1/2 price for 6 months from 5 August 2024.
- Ticket prices will be reduced from \$21.90 to \$10.95 for go card and EMV and \$11 for paper tickets when travelling from Central Station to the Airport.

SAVINGS FOR ALL QUEENSLANDERS



SAVINGS FOR FAMILIES

**\$AVES
MORE THAN
\$9,700**

Case study: low-income family

A Gold Coast family of 5 with 3 children aged between 4 and 17 years that has an approximate annual income of \$72,000, which qualifies them for a Health Care Card, can now **save more than \$9,700**.

- \$1,300 Cost of Living Rebate on their electricity bill plus the existing \$372 Queensland Electricity Rebate, bringing total support to \$1,672
- \$492 through the Textbook and Resource Allowance paid directly to the 2 eldest children's school
- Saving \$4,800 (on average) in kindergarten fees under the Free Kindy program for the youngest child
- FairPlay vouchers up to the value of \$200 for each of the 2 eldest children
- \$85 registration fee concession on a private use, 4-cylinder car (including TIF, excluding CTP).
- \$150 SwimStart voucher for learn to swim lessons for the youngest child
- 50 cent public transport fares for 6 months. If one parent commutes from Robina to Bowen Hills 4 times a week, this cost will go from \$91.68 to \$4 per week saving \$2,104 over 6 months.



\$200 FairPlay

FairPlay vouchers up to the value of \$200 will be available from 1 July 2024 to help all Queensland children and young people aged between 5 and 17 years participate in sport and active recreation activities. Parents, carers or guardians can apply for one voucher per child per year and use them for memberships, registrations or participation fees.



OTHER SAVINGS FOR FAMILIES

SwimStart

SwimStart provides vouchers up to \$150 in value to support eligible kids aged 0-4 to learn to swim.

Non-State Schools Transport Assistance Scheme

The Bus Fare Assistance Program provides funding towards the transport costs of students attending non-state schools outside of the Brisbane City Council area.

Textbook and Resource Allowance

This assistance will benefit parents of secondary school age students attending state and approved non-state schools and children registered in home education of equivalent age to contribute towards the cost of textbooks and learning resources.

Living Away from Home Allowance Scheme

This assistance supports eligible Queensland families whose children need to live away from home to attend a state school or an accredited non-state school and is delivered through 4 allowances.

ICT Subsidy

Provides up to \$750 via the State Schools of Distance Education, to assist eligible families with offsetting the cost of computer equipment and internet access for students enrolled in a State School of Distance Education.

School and Community Food Relief Program

The \$15 million School and Community Food Relief Program will assist children and young people to access healthy food by providing breakfast, lunch, or food options at other times from the tuckshop during the school day.



Free Kindy

All Queensland families with 4-year-olds are eligible for 15 hours per week of free kindergarten. Funding covers up to 40 weeks or 600 hours per year in a government-approved kindergarten program. On average, a family with a child attending a sessional kindy for 15 hours per week that charges \$48 per day will save \$4,800 a year in fees.

FREE FLU SHOT

All Queensland residents over the age of 6 months are eligible to receive a free influenza vaccine from vaccination providers, including GPs and pharmacies, until 30 September 2024.

Other new free vaccines include:

- Meningococcal B vaccine for eligible children and adolescents
- RSV immunisations for more than 70,000 eligible infants and young children.

SAVINGS FOR ALL QUEENSLANDERS



SAVINGS FOR FIRST HOME BUYERS

\$30,000 - First Home Owner Grant

To support more first homeowners, the grant has been doubled to \$30,000 for new homes until 30 June 2025. This is the equal most-generous scheme in the country. By targeting it at new homes, the government is encouraging more supply into the market which will make housing more affordable in the long term.

\$17,350 - Extended transfer duty concessions

Eligible first home buyers will pay no transfer duty on home purchases up to \$700,000. The threshold for the full first home concession has been increased from \$500,000 to \$700,000.

- Maximum saving of \$17,350 across the state at a purchase price of \$700,000.
- Partial concessions will be available on homes with a dutiable value up to \$800,000.

Transfer duty concessions will also be available to eligible first home buyers purchasing vacant land with a dutiable value up to \$500,000. This is an increase from the current \$400,000 value.

10,000 first home buyers per year are estimated to benefit from the new thresholds.

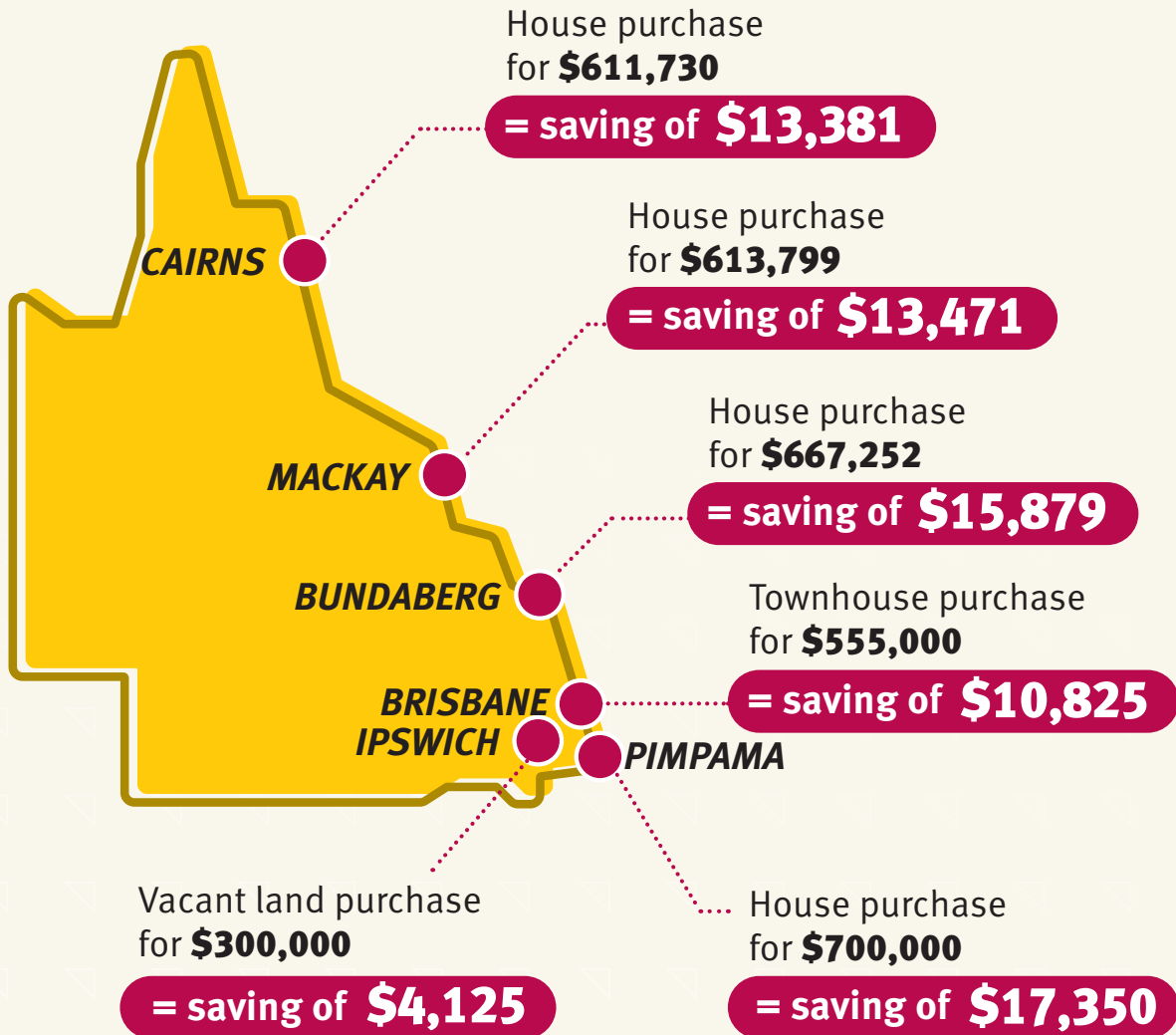
Other accommodation and housing initiatives include:

- **Sales to Tenants program:** Supports social housing tenants to buy the department-owned home they rent, if it's for sale.
- **Help to Buy scheme:** The Queensland Government is working with the Australian Government to make it easier for low and middle income families to buy a home. Queensland will have approximately 2,000 of the 10,000 national places available each year for 4 years.
- **Queensland Housing Finance Loan:** Will temporarily raise the loan's income threshold that is supporting Queenslanders in regional and remote locations who can afford to buy or build a home but can't get private finance from a bank or building society.



Savings for first home buyers

first homeowner concessions on transfer duty:



- Savings based on values reflecting indicative recent sales for each location
- Savings represent the reduction in duty payable due to the increased concession thresholds.

Over the past 8 years, the government has supported 69,000 FIRST HOME BUYERS with homeowner grants.

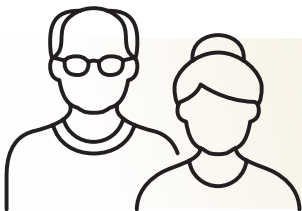
SAVINGS FOR ALL QUEENSLANDERS



Case study: for retirees

A retired Sunshine Coast couple with no dependents, both on the pension with Queensland Seniors Cards, can now **save more than \$4,100**.

- \$1,300 Cost of Living Rebate on their electricity bill plus the existing \$372 Queensland Electricity Rebate, bringing total support to \$1,672.
- \$120 South East Queensland water subsidy
- \$200 for council rates
- \$89 for reticulated natural gas
- Free dental care with an average benefit of \$830 each under the Oral Health Scheme
- \$49 registration fee concession on a private use, 4-cylinder car (including TIF, excluding CTP), in addition to existing 50 per cent pensioner discount.
- 50 cent public transport fares for 6 months. If one of them makes 3 return bus journeys around the Sunshine Coast each week using their seniors go card, this cost will go from \$10.44 to \$3 per week saving \$178.56 over 6 months.



SAVINGS FOR PENSIONERS AND HEALTH CARE CARD HOLDERS

South East Queensland Pensioner Water Subsidy Scheme

A water subsidy of up to \$120 per year is available for eligible South East Queensland pensioners to help ease the cost of living. Customers must apply through their water provider.

Pensioner Rate Subsidy Scheme

A rates subsidy of up to \$200 per year is available for eligible Queensland pensioners to help ease the cost of living. Customers must apply through their local council.

Reticulated Natural Gas Rebate Scheme

Queensland pensioners and seniors may be eligible for an annual rebate of \$86.75 on their reticulated natural gas bill. Customers must apply for their rebate through their gas provider.

Taxi Subsidy Scheme

Provides a 50 per cent concession fare up to a maximum subsidy of \$30 per trip for eligible Queenslanders with severe disabilities.

Spectacle Supply Scheme

The scheme provides eligible Queensland residents with a pair of basic prescription spectacles, once every 2 years.

Oral Health Scheme

The Oral Health Scheme provides free dental care to eligible clients with an average benefit of \$830. This includes appointments for check-ups, preventive care, fillings and toothaches, accidents or emergencies.

APPLY FOR A SENIORS CARD

Queenslanders aged 65 and over can use the Seniors Card to get discounts on goods and services. Make sure you are getting all the savings you are entitled to.

Check your eligibility and apply online at:

www.qld.gov.au/seniors

or call: **13 QGOV (13 74 68)** to complete your application over the phone.





SAVINGS FOR THE VULNERABLE

Rental Grants

A Rental Grant is a once only, non-repayable, grant equivalent to the amount of 2 weeks rent to help households in housing crisis meet some of the costs of moving into private rental accommodation.

Bond Loans

A Bond Loan is an interest-free loan to cover the rental bond when moving into private rental accommodation. The loan is up to a maximum of 4 weeks rent.

Bond Loans plus

An interest-free and fee-free loan to cover the rental bond plus an amount equal to 2 weeks rent for the property you want to rent.

Home Assist Secure

Home Assist Secure provides critical home maintenance services to people aged 60 years or over, or people of any age who have a disability.

Homeless Hotline

The Homeless Hotline (**1800 474 753**) is a referral service for people who are experiencing homelessness or are at risk of homelessness.

Mortgage relief loan

Short-term help for people who are having difficulties with their home loan repayments due to unemployment, accident, illness, or some other unexpected or unforeseen crisis. The loan is interest free with no application fees or ongoing charges. You can borrow up to \$20,000 which is repaid over 10 years.

Smoke alarm installation reimbursement

Up to \$1,500 of support is available for eligible foster and kinship carers to update smoke alarms in their homes.

Smoke Alarm Subsidy Scheme

Deaf Connect manages the provision of specialised smoke alarms to people with a hearing impairment.

Home Energy Emergency Assistance Scheme

The Home Energy Emergency Assistance Scheme provides one-off emergency assistance of up to \$720 every 2 years. It helps low income households experiencing a short-term financial crisis who are unable to pay their current electricity or reticulated natural gas account. Customers must apply through their energy provider.



SAVINGS FOR STUDENTS



A casual worker in their early 20s living in Cairns, looking to study for a new career can now **save thousands**.

- Study assistance options may include:
 - an average subsidy of \$3,483 to undertake their first post-school Certificate III qualification
 - nursing students can save up to \$25,000 in study costs through Free TAFE
 - first-year apprentices in construction, plumbing and electrical can get up to \$1,000 cash-back for tools
- \$1,300 Cost of Living Rebate on their electricity bill.
- An interest-free and fee-free bond loan providing average support of \$1,600
- Free dental care with an average benefit of \$830 under the Oral Health Scheme
- \$85 registration fee concession on a private use, 4-cylinder car (including TIF, excluding CTP)
- Free Blue Card for volunteers
- 50 cent public transport fares for 6 months. As a student, if they catch the bus to uni 4 times a week, this cost will go from \$14.40 to \$4 per week, saving \$249.60 over 6 months.



The *Good Jobs, Great Training: Queensland Skills Strategy 2024–2028* will help address local skills and workforce priorities with more free and subsidised training. It will fund one million publicly subsidised training places in health, social services, hospitality, clean energy, construction and more.

FREE TAFE

30,000 new Free TAFE places are being provided in 2024 through to 2026 by the Australian and Queensland governments. This gives more Queenslanders the opportunity to skill-up for future jobs in areas where they are most needed.

Certificate III in Electrotechnology Electrician has been the state's most popular course at TAFE with over 5,000 students commencing their apprenticeship in 2023.

\$1,000 - Free Tools for First Years

The Free Tools for First Years program will provide apprentices, who started from 1 January 2024, with up to \$1,000 cash-back on the purchase of industry-relevant tools. The program is being delivered under the Homes for Queenslanders Plan and will support up to 4,000 new apprentices. Eligible trades include construction, plumbing, electrical, bricklaying, tiling, plastering, painting, cabinet making, stonemasonry and joinery.

\$25,000 - Diploma of Nursing

Nursing students will save up to \$25,000 in study costs through Free TAFE. A \$59 million investment will support up to 3,000 additional training places for new students in 2025. Queensland needs more nurses on the frontline in our hospitals, satellite hospitals and clinics across the state. Fully funded by the Queensland Government, the Free TAFE Diploma of Nursing is equipping the next generation of nurses with the skills they need.

Support for businesses that employ apprentices and trainees

The 50 per cent Apprentice and Trainee Rebate, which applies in addition to the exemption of apprentice and trainee wages from payroll tax, will be extended for a further 12 months to 30 June 2025. The extended rebate will reduce costs for businesses that employ apprentices and trainees.

Why coal royalties matter to all Queenslanders

Royalties are payments made by mining companies for the right to extract coal and other resources in Queensland.

They provide a share of the companies' revenue back to Queenslanders for the resources and are critical funding for key services that benefit all communities.

The royalties from Queensland coal have helped pay for cost-of-living support like electricity rebates and free kindy, as well as infrastructure and services in our regions, such as Moranbah Hospital.

In 2022, the Queensland government introduced new progressive royalty tiers to ensure Queenslanders receive a fair share when coal mining companies are securing super profits.

\$10.541B in progressive coal royalties in 2023–24
is helping us to support Queenslanders.



SIMPLE WAYS TO SAVE

Make sure you are getting all the savings you are entitled to:

- Review all the Queensland Government funded concessions and rebates and apply for those you may be eligible for.
- Use the Concessions Eligibility Finder tool to see if you may be eligible for any other savings.

Need help to apply for concessions and rebates?

Call us – 13 QGOV (13 74 68)

- Translation services – Find translation services near you.
- Ask Izzy – Search Ask Izzy online for over 400,000 support services to find the help you need, now and nearby.

Everyone is feeling cost of living pressures. So help is here now.

\$11.218B
IN CONCESSIONS
FOR QUEENSLANDERS

Don't miss out. Apply now for a range of Queensland Government funded support.



Find what savings you're eligible for.



Queensland Cost of Living Action



or go to:
www.qld.gov.au/costoflivingaction