



# Rachel Nolan MP

Member for Ipswich

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### Local business supports carers in Ipswich

Rachel Nolan MP congratulated local businesses who have signed up to the **Bligh Government's new Queensland Carer Business Discount program**.

"This is a really important program and an opportunity for local businesses to give something back to carers in our community," Ms Nolan said.

"Applications for the new carers card are now officially open, and I encourage eligible carers to sign up, with discounts of between 5% and 10% - some higher - on a range of items from plumbing, newspapers, to food and taxis in some regions," she said.

"For businesses who believe they can add value to the scheme, I would warmly encourage you to get on board – the more we can do for our carers, the better."

"Businesses in my local area who have already come on board include:

- A & D Mechanical
- Aussie Paint Barn
- Avis Australia
- Cameraland – Kodak express
- Chek airconditioning
- Clive Peeters Ltd
- Endeavour Recycled Clothing
- Engraving Plus
- ESL Locksmiths
- First Forest Funerals
- Gators Aquariums
- Ipswich Hi-Fi
- Ipswich Window Tinting
- Jon Kent Lawyers
- Mallets Carpet Choice
- Midas Car Care Centre
- Phil Hart Optometrist
- Regional Stationery & Printing
- Richard Zande & Associates
- Solver Paints
- Walker Pender Solicitors
- Underfashion World
- Heritage City Relaiety

Each business is offering a discount on selected services to holders of the Carers Card," Ms Nolan said.

So far, 2,500 businesses across the state have signed up to the Queensland Carers Business Discount Card, which is on top of the Bligh Government's 2008-09 State Budget support of \$1.235 billion for the disability sector, up 14 per cent on last year.

This significant annual budget supports early intervention and prevention programs, respite and accommodation services to support Queenslanders with a disability and their carers.

Acting Communities and Disability Services Minister Margaret Keech said the card was believed to be the first of its kind in the country, offering carers savings off of retail products and services.

"The card is not only recognition of the work carers do but it gives some tangible returns in the form of discounts which will help ease strain on the weekly budget," Mrs Keech said.

It's estimated some 87,000 carers will be eligible for the new card. To qualify, carers must either receive the Centrelink Carer Payment or the Carer Allowance.

The Northern Territory currently has a Pensioner and Carer Card which offers subsidies and concessions similar to the already existing Queensland Seniors Card which offers generous rebates for water, gas and electricity.

Among the first businesses to sign-up to the Queensland Carer Business Discount Card are All Shelving & Storage Solutions, American Book Store, Andersens Carpets, Avis Australia, Clive Peeters, Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary, Dendy Cinemas, Golden Chain Motor Inn, Greyhound Australia, Kookaburra River Queens, Novus Australia, Shoe City, Solver Paints Tyrepower and Walk on Wheels Newmarket.

Carers can apply for a card online at [www.qld.gov.au/carercard](http://www.qld.gov.au/carercard) or over-the-phone on 131 304. Businesses wanting to offer discounts should call 3224 8747 or go online at [www.qld.gov.au/carercard](http://www.qld.gov.au/carercard)