



BERT VAN MANEN MP
FEDERAL MEMBER FOR FORDE

Cost of Living

[3 MINUTES]

Speaker, this has been spoken about a lot in recent weeks in this place. But the sad fact is that **21 percent** of households across Australia are experiencing some form of food insecurity.

I have seen first-hand families in the Logan Community struggling with the rising cost of living. They have had to skip meals, and go days without food, just to make ends meet for them and their families.

And Speaker, I am sure everyone in this place would agree with me that this is simply unacceptable, and something needs to change, and it needs to change fast.

The issue of food insecurity in our community was evident when I visited the **Loganlea Community Centre** last week.

Usually, their Community Pantry is full to the brim with non-perishables that those in the community doing it tough can access, but on this day, I was met with bare, empty shelves.

President Karen Hook and her team, just like many other charity groups in the Logan area simply cannot keep up with the demand for fresh fruit and vegetables.

And to this day, they continue to struggle with the sharp increase to food prices just like we're all experiencing.

However, Speaker, there is a silver lining to this story.

Because last week, I was given an update on a tremendous community project that has the aim to help solve the problem of food insecurity and it's happening at one of our local schools.

Loganlea State High School have been working quietly for the last couple of years to set-up their very own Mini Farm that is run from the back of their school premises at Loganlea.

The beauty of this **Mini Farm Project** is that the food the students are growing will be donated directly back to local charities like the **Loganlea Community Centre** to provide those who are vulnerable with continued access to good-quality and nutritious food, without the hefty price tag.

Speaker, the **Mini Farm Project** is currently producing quality produce including fresh Beetroot, Lettuce, Carrots and Turnips. And during the cooler months, the students plan to grow Broccoli, Cauliflower and maybe even some Kale too.

Principal Brenton Farleigh told me that the students who have been volunteering with this project are thoroughly enjoying getting out into the fresh Logan Air, working with Mini Farm Project Manager - Kirsty getting their hands dirty.

As they say Speaker, from little things - big things grow, and our wider community will only benefit positively from projects such as the **Loganlea State High School** Mini Farm Project.

I would also like to take this opportunity to wish Brenton, Nick, Kirsty and the students at **Loganlea State High School** all the very best for the future.

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