



Speech by

# JULIE ATTWOOD

MEMBER FOR MOUNT OMMANEY

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Hansard 25 May 1999

## POVERTY

**Mrs ATTWOOD** (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (10.19 a.m.): A visit by representatives of the Social Action Office and Benarrawa, a concerned group of individuals who strive to improve the quality of life of families in the Mount Ommaney electorate and beyond, highlighted the extent of poverty in our communities. Both groups are appalled at the increasing incidence of poverty in Queensland. They argued that the increase in the cost of housing is a significant determining factor in increasing poverty. It is not part of our nature as Queenslanders living in this beautiful State to whinge about trivial matters. The concerns I am raising are real concerns. They affect the lives of the people living in my electorate.

Public housing waiting lists are a stark indication of the problem. These lists are properly administered. Priority is given according to need and availability of housing. The Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing, Robert Schwarten, has recently provided much needed public housing for Corinda residents. The seniors units and disabled units have been constructed with the latest designs and conveniences inside and out. This filled a gaping hole in the needs of the suburb of Corinda and reduced the numbers on the waiting list for this area. The people living in the new units are very happy and have assimilated into the surrounding community.

The Labor Government's philosophy is to provide for the needs of the most vulnerable low income earners. We are committed to ensuring that funding is available to reduce the numbers suffering from housing-related poverty. However, the coalition Government ripped the guts out of public housing funding by returning \$130m to the Commonwealth. This led to longer waiting lists, less refurbishment and reduced construction of public housing in Queensland. Coalition Governments have ignored the need for social justice and social cohesion. The current Government is faced with a major task and an enormous cost to bring public housing stock up to the national average.

Time expired.

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