



Speech by
Mr TERRY SULLIVAN
MEMBER FOR CHERMSIDE

Hansard 22 August 2000

STATE HOUSING AMENDMENT BILL [No. 2]

Mr SULLIVAN (Chermide—ALP) (3.51 p.m.): In supporting the State Housing Amendment Bill (No. 2), I draw to the attention of members the fact that certain topics and certain pieces of legislation define the difference between Labor and the Liberal/National coalition. Public housing is one such issue. The ALP has a strong, longstanding and continuing commitment to provide affordable housing to all citizens. This Labor commitment to public housing sets us apart from the Liberal/National coalition. The Australian notion of a fair go has led Governments to provide social safety nets for its citizens, but it is notable that almost every major initiative in this area has been introduced by a Labor Federal or State Government. The safety nets do not just take the form of pensions or concessions and benefits for people with special needs. Labor's commitment touches on the major aspects of people's lives—public health, public schooling, public transport and, in this case, public housing.

The general thrust of the Bill is to simplify the financial transactions regarding the non-public account trusts currently being administered by the Department of Housing. It will also make the risks and costs of the whole home lending program more transparent and open to greater scrutiny. These are practical measures to improve the integrity of public housing operations in Queensland. I am proud to be part of a Labor Government that continues the ALP's unswerving commitment to public housing tenants. I congratulate Premier Peter Beattie and Treasurer David Hamill on their efforts in fighting for a better housing deal for Queensland under the Federal/State funding arrangements. It is noticeable that John Howard and Peter Costello have shown a crude disregard for public housing tenants. Some public housing tenants who live in the seniors units behind my office at Chermide have expressed their disgust at the \$1 bonus they received recently to compensate them for the GST.

I congratulate the Minister and encourage him to continue the good work for public housing tenants.
