



Speech by

# Annastacia Palaszczuk

MEMBER FOR INALA

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## INALA, COMMUNITY RENEWAL

**Ms PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (5.20 pm): The Beattie government's Community Renewal has transformed Inala. Under phase 1 of the Community Renewal Program, between 1998 and 2004 \$8.8 million was allocated to Inala. I am pleased to state that the five-year budget from 2004 to 2009 shows that there will be \$4 million allocated. Through Community Renewal the state government engages with Queenslanders to improve the quality of life in their communities. The programs that are delivered are sometimes small, but they have a dramatic impact upon the local area. Streetscaping, renovated houses, support for community festivals, upgrading of bikeways, employment of youth workers, promotion of healthy schools, literacy projects and sport mentor programs are just a few examples of how the funding is being spent.

Housing affordability continues to be an issue that is not just evidenced in the seat of Inala but also across the state and across Australia. It is a shame that the Howard government has failed to increase its commitment to funding for housing. Increased population into south-east Queensland has put additional pressures on the current housing stock and rental prices continue to soar. More and more people are moving further out into the suburbs in the search for affordable rent. It is becoming increasingly harder for young people to even think about being able to afford their own homes.

I am pleased to report that in Inala we are witnessing a new approach to social housing. The old Richlands TAFE site, once a high school, is about to become an integrated affordable housing precinct. The Brisbane Housing Co. is developing 39 units. Three of the old TAFE buildings will be converted into two- and three-bedroom town houses. Stage 2 will consist of 21 units and 43 blocks of land which will be sold on the open market for purchase. But it does not stop there. Mission Australia, the Queensland government and Griffith University will continue their nationally recognised Pathways to Prevention Program. This program seeks to work with children between the ages of four and six at an early stage and their families to assist with the child's communication and behavioural skills. Also on the site, the Inala Elders will move to a better renovated premises and will be able to continue the valuable work it does, especially with the young people in the community.

A new child-care centre will be located on the southern end of the block which is adjacent to the Richlands East Primary School. Another important element of the site is the preservation of some recreational space. This was initially earmarked for a pool. However, the lord mayor has failed to come up with any money for the planned maintenance of this project, which means that this pool simply cannot move forward. It appears that he has other priorities than the health and wellbeing of Inala residents. This should come as no surprise considering the former Liberal lord mayor, Sallyanne Atkinson, failed to deliver a bus service to the residents of Inala. As an alternative to the pool, we will work closely with the community to come up with other options for this area. One option is the installation of play and activity areas at the nearby Rocks Riverside Parkway. At the end of the day, this affordable housing precinct out in Inala will be the benchmark for future affordable housing statewide. As mentioned, this is about more than affordable housing; it is about a community—a community that takes pride in its members and a community that supports its members most in need.