



Speech by

Ms Grace Grace

MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL

Hansard Wednesday, 29 October 2008

SOCIAL HOUSING

Ms GRACE (Brisbane Central—ALP) (12.07 pm): Now more than ever in these uncertain times Queensland needs the vision and leadership of the Bligh government's Toward Q2 ambitions of fair, green, healthy, smart and strong. On 22 October, Minister Robert Swarten and I turned the first sod on the \$8.5 million Department of Housing development in Kinross Street, Spring Hill. The much-needed 35-unit project being built on land owned by Churches of Christ Care is a clear commitment by the Bligh government to create a fairer community by providing social housing right in the heart of my electorate of Brisbane Central for those who struggle to meet rental market costs. How can you get fairer than that? This development is also a green initiative, because its central location means residents will not need to use a car, opting instead to walk, cycle or use public transport.

On 21 October I spoke at the Youth Emergency Services 30th anniversary celebrations. YES provides vitally needed crisis accommodation and support services to young people aged 15 to 21 who are homeless or who are at risk of homelessness. I would like to extend my congratulations to Christopher Miller, the CEO of YES, and to his dedicated board, staff and volunteers on their good work and wish them a happy 30th birthday.

Another vital organisation that is helping to make our community fairer and more inclusive is BRIC Housing, which I officially launched last week. BRIC Housing provides social and affordable housing for low-income and disadvantaged individuals and families and was formed out of the amalgamation of three well-established community housing organisations.

I would like to extend my best wishes to the outgoing CEO, Leigh Burton, and my congratulations to Gina Pearson, who has been appointed as the new CEO and who will take BRIC forward. I congratulate the BRIC Housing board and staff and volunteers on its launch, and I look forward to a new beginning for social housing in inner Brisbane.

These organisations are an excellent example of the Bligh government working in partnership with the community to achieve the Fair Toward Q2 objective now and well into the future. I acknowledge our Pacific Island sisters.