



Speech by

Hon. Annastacia Palaszczuk

MEMBER FOR INALA

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Disability Housing; President Lech Kaczynski

Hon. A PALASZCZUK (Inala—ALP) (Minister for Disability Services and Multicultural Affairs) (10.06 am): I have great news for Queensland about disability housing. The Bligh government will invest \$9.1 million this financial year to provide more accommodation for Queenslanders with a disability. Queenslanders with a disability need a helping hand, and that is what we are giving them. Delivering better accommodation for Queenslanders with a disability is one of my key priorities, and these funds are targeted at people with special accommodation needs. It will give them access to modern accommodation appropriate to them. This is about helping Queenslanders to live independently in their own homes. It will particularly benefit ageing carers of children with a disability and those with an urgent need for accommodation support.

Where is this new disability housing? It is in Ingham, Rockhampton, Bundaberg, Maryborough, Kingaroy, Sunnybank, Regents Park, Alexandra Hills, Mitchelton, Capalaba and Emerald. Today I am announcing even more new housing for people with a disability: \$3.4 million will go towards housing in Pine Rivers, in Innisfail, in Ipswich and in Gladstone.

We are also committed to the \$430 million Home and Community Care program in partnership with the Commonwealth. This initiative is also helping frail older Queenslanders and younger people with a disability live independently for longer. Funding home modifications that make life easier is one of the best ways to keep people living independently and to prevent them entering residential aged care.

Last week, jointly with the Commonwealth, we announced an extra \$672,000. This will go to 28 Queensland organisations to carry out important home modifications for Queenslanders with a disability—things like fitting handrails, ramps, emergency alarms and easy-to-use tap fittings which do not cost a lot of money and which can make a world of difference.

Finally, on a sad note, on Sunday I will be attending a memorial service at Bowen Hills with members of the Queensland Polish community in tribute to the late President of Poland, Lech Kaczynski. President Kaczynski and his wife, along with others, were tragically killed in a plane crash last weekend. He was a well-respected president of Poland, and I know that members will join with me and members of the Polish community in mourning his passing.