



Speech by

Hon. Annastacia Palaszczuk

MEMBER FOR INALA

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Young People with Disability

Hon. A PALASZCZUK (Inala—ALP) (Minister for Disability Services and Multicultural Affairs) (10.00 am): Today I am pleased to announce a landmark achievement. More than 100 younger Queenslanders with a disability have or are being diverted from aged-care facilities into supported accommodation. That is more than 100 young Queenslanders whose lives are being changed for the better. The Bligh government truly is leading the way when it comes to supporting younger Queenslanders with a disability. Some time ago we recognised that aged care was clearly not the best option for younger people with a disability. Last week I had the opportunity to witness this commitment become a reality, with the opening of the \$1.8 million Ellen Buckley Place at Inala in Brisbane's south-west. Clearly this is another example of how the Bligh government is delivering the vital infrastructure we need for tomorrow's Queensland.

This accommodation in the south-west will enable eight younger Queenslanders with a disability to live independently with support, after being moved or diverted from aged-care facilities. After listening to the stories of the future residents of Ellen Buckley Place, it is clear to me that this program is not only essential; it is life changing. I spoke with one man, David Johnson, who is only 47 years old. After suffering multiple strokes that left him in a wheelchair, David had been residing in aged care since 2007. Now, thanks to this program, he has the opportunity to move into Ellen Buckley Place, live among people his own age and receive appropriate support and care. His life has improved immeasurably.

The accommodation that I opened last week was named after Ellen Buckley. She touched the lives of so many in her local community, including my own. Ellen passed away last year from Huntington's Disease, a genetic brain disorder that affects the functions of the body and mind. Ellen was committed to living at home rather than residing in aged care.

We have exceeded our targets for 2009-10 and are leading the way on this issue. This is about choice, it is about independence, but most fundamentally this program is about improving people's quality of life.