



Speech by  
**Grace Grace**

**MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL**

Hansard Wednesday, 4 August 2010

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## **AFFORDABLE HOUSING**

**Ms GRACE** (Brisbane Central—ALP) (11.54 am): Affordable housing is what is needed in my electorate of Brisbane Central and throughout Queensland and that is what the state and federal governments, with Brisbane Housing Co., are delivering. On 30 June I attended with Ministers Plibersek and Struthers and member for Brisbane Arch Bevis the practical completion inspection of BHC's landmark Aris project in Master Street, Newstead, in my electorate. This project is the first of its kind in Queensland and Australia and comprises 95 apartments, 30 National Rental Affordability Scheme homes, 26 social housing dwellings funded by the Nation Building—Economic Stimulus Plan and 39 privately owned units. This project truly represents a mixed living development and has not only delivered exceptional quality apartments but also supported many local jobs during the global recession.

This project alone supported 350 jobs which was great news for the construction industry and its suppliers in my electorate of Brisbane Central. The rental market in my electorate is both tight and expensive and it is important to increase the supply of affordable housing in this fast-growing area of Brisbane. It is terrific that the Gillard government, with the support of the Bligh government, is making such a big investment in affordable housing not only in Brisbane Central but throughout Queensland.

For some time the Brisbane Housing Co. has led the way with its innovative approach to affordable housing and the Newstead Aris development is no exception. The Aris complex is a great example of all three levels of government working together and what great results can be achieved with local industry to deliver real benefits to low-paid workers and those in need. I welcome the ongoing commitment of the \$5.7 billion social housing initiative of the Gillard government—the single largest investment in social housing ever undertaken by a federal government in this country's history. It is delivering on jobs during the downturn, much needed affordable housing in this state and quality accommodation at well below market rate. This is good news for Brisbane Central and for those who are benefiting from this unprecedented investment. This is great news; it is putting roofs over people's heads.