



Speech by


**Michael Crandon**

**MEMBER FOR COOMERA**

Hansard Thursday, 1 December 2011

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## **SOCIAL HOUSING**

 **Mr CRANDON** (Coomera—LNP) (3.01 pm): When we talk about waste and red tape, we often think about overspends and difficulty with paperwork and approvals. There is also the waste of fixing up mistakes that this government brings upon itself. The brand-new units at 66-68 City Road at Beenleigh come to mind. These one-bedroom units are ideal for people with disabilities, but shortly after being housed new residents were forced to quickly vacate their abodes due to major defects in the drainage. So now there are 21 vacant units which, according to sources, were handed over to Housing in January 2011 but were still vacant as at Tuesday of this week. What does this mean? At a time when we have a chronic shortage of housing that is suitable for people with disabilities, these units have been vacant for months and months. A whole block of units can be built in the time that these units have so far been vacant in order to fix faults. People in the area will tell you that many days go by, if not weeks, without any attention to rectifying the faults. That is an inefficiency that is costing people a suitable place to live.

The minister will tell you that tenants were placed in other suitable accommodation elsewhere. That is fine. The problem, though, is that the other suitable accommodation was intended for someone else on the list. But until you put a human face on it, it does not mean very much. So I will tell you about Dorothy, who I met at the Eagleby shopping centre recently. Dorothy has been waiting for a housing department home for seven years, but it tells her that she is not a priority. Dorothy is 62 and on a disability pension. Her health is going downhill fast. She has bad knees and hips and now has problems with her back. She has a bedroom in her son's home and that is why she is not regarded as a priority, but the house is not set up for people with disabilities such as hers. For example, she finds it increasingly difficult to have a shower because she has to step over the edge of the bath to get into the shower, and then there is the matter of balance that this sort of shower facility does not afford. Some would argue that Dorothy is not the most needy of those who are on the waiting list. Dorothy would argue that she is. One thing is certain: there are 21 people with disabilities, just like Dorothy—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kilburn): The member's time has expired.

**Mr CRANDON:**—who do not have appropriate accommodation because these units have been unoccupied—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The member's time has expired!

*(Time expired)*