



Speech by


## Annastacia Palaszczuk

MEMBER FOR INALA

Hansard Tuesday, 10 July 2012

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### MOTION: PUBLIC HOUSING

 **Ms PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Leader of the Opposition) (5.54 pm): I rise this evening to support the motion moved by the member for Bundamba and to oppose the amendment put forward by the Minister for Housing and Public Works.

**Dr Flegg** interjected.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** You have had your turn. This is an extremely important issue. This is a very sensitive issue and this is a very cold-hearted government. You do not know the fear that you are causing members of the public.

**Dr Flegg** interjected.

**Madam SPEAKER:** Order! I warn the member on my right, but I also ask the Leader of the Opposition to make her comments through the chair and cease using the term 'you'.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** This is causing fear to people who are living in social housing. The member for Bundamba talked about Miss Connie Dailey. Connie Dailey lives in the electorate of Inala. She is fondly referred to as Mrs Claus. She has played that part for many years in our local community. She witnessed her husband pass away in that house. In my life I have never seen a reaction like the fear that this woman had over the cold and callous letter that you have put out to thousands upon thousands of social housing tenants throughout this state. In my electorate of Inala I have had hundreds of calls into my office and people coming up to me in shopping centres, holding my arm and in tears, because they do not know if they are going to be forced to share with a stranger. This is your policy. Not once before the election did we hear from the then opposition that they had plans to basically destroy the social housing system in this state. What did the minister do? He sent out a feedback form. Today he has reneged on people having to share, but what he has not ruled out, and I will make this clear for members such as the member for Lytton, the member for Waterford and the member for Logan who have large numbers of social housing in their areas, is increasing rents. This government will increase the rents of social housing. I ask the minister to state categorically that he will rule out increasing rents for these people who are living in social housing. Never before have I seen an issue like this strike at the heart of families.

**A government member:** You caused it.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** If you want to go back to causes, I will give you a cause. One of the major issues that happened here in relation to housing investment in this state was the lack of funding that came from the Howard government over 11 years. That is why there was no funding in this state. That is the answer. Those opposite are responsible for that. Let us put the facts on the public record. Thanks to state and federal government investment of over \$1.5 billion in housing, how many new homes have been built over the last three years? Over 5,784 with another 600 being built this year. What is your commitment to continuing the building program? Have you spoken to the federal housing minister? Have you, as a housing minister, sought extra funds to continue the program? Of this new stock, 97 per cent has been one- and two-bedroom units. A Labor government is compassionate. A Labor government cares about people. A Labor government will always stand up for the vulnerable people of our society. We are not cold-hearted. If people came to us and said they could no longer look after their three-bedroom house any

longer, they cannot take care of the maintenance program, they would like to downsize into a one- or two-bedroom unit, do you know what would happen, minister for housing? As a one- or two-bedroom house became available they would be given the option to move into it. That is what happened.

This government is cold, callous and uncaring. It is the worst landlord that we have ever seen in this state. The Minister for Housing does not have any compassion. He does not care about people or the distress that they are feeling in their hearts. I have had a doctor—

**Government members** interjected.

**Madam SPEAKER:** Order! Members, there are too many interjections in the chamber and I cannot hear the speaker.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** A doctor has contacted my office to talk to me about the fear that people are feeling about the government's proposals.

*(Time expired)*