



Speech by


## Annastacia Palaszczuk

MEMBER FOR INALA

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### PUBLIC HOUSING, GARDEN AWARDS

 **Ms PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Leader of the Opposition) (9.45 pm): Last week we heard from the LNP government that, essentially, they were going to scrap the awards for gardeners living in public housing. I know that there are members sitting in this House tonight who have attended many of these public housing garden awards over many, many years, and they are very low cost indeed. It is a great opportunity to thank those people who are doing the right thing and looking after their houses and promoting their gardens. Often at these ceremonies the winners are presented with a certificate and also a small plant. I am very disappointed that the government has made the announcement to axe these garden awards, which are very low cost but mean a lot to people.

I have made the decision that in the Inala electorate I will conduct my own garden awards for 2012. They will be open to not just people in public housing but also the wider community. The winner will receive \$300. There will be a highly commended, public housing for \$100; highly commended, open for \$100; commended, public housing, \$50; commended, open, \$50; and commended, most creative, open, \$50. Nomination forms are available now and the judging will take place in mid-September.

When the axing of the garden awards was announced by the government I had the chance to visit Mick's garden. Mick and his wife have been living in their house for many, many years. They are real battlers, but they have won so many garden awards and their gardens are completely immaculate. It is a shame that the government has axed not only the garden awards but also the tenant participation program—\$350,000. Basically, this funding was pulled from 10 regional tenant groups and 47 local tenant groups which provided information, advocacy and support to public housing tenants.

I am also very concerned that I have received reports that the housing managers have been told that they can no longer have a vehicle. That means they cannot go and visit their tenants who may have issues. Sometimes there may be issues with neighbours. It is important that the housing managers are allowed access to vehicles. I would ask the Minister for Housing to clarify this position because the government are doing a disservice not only to themselves and their department but also to the people who need their help most.

*(Time expired)*