




Speech by

Darren Grimwade

MEMBER FOR MORAYFIELD

Hansard Thursday, 23 August 2012

PUBLIC HOUSING

 **Mr GRIMWADE** (Morayfield—LNP) (3.38 pm): I rise to talk about public housing and homelessness in my region. As we know the previous Labor government left public housing in this state in a shambles, with 30,000 people on waiting lists requiring housing. Since being elected, the Newman government is doing what it can immediately to fix this problem and it is going to get as many roofs over the heads of people as it can. In fact, as of 31 July 2012 in my electorate, a total of 729 applications have been registered for social housing. These applications include 249 applications where the person indicated on their application that they were homeless.

We also have identified, through the minister's recent survey, that we have 658 dwellings in the Caboolture Housing Service Centre area that are underoccupied by two or more rooms. I make no apologies for ensuring that families and kids in our region have a roof over their head rather than being forced to sleep in the back seat of their cars while perfectly good bedrooms are unattended night after night.

My office has recently been contacted with many positive stories in relation to recent changes in public housing and I wish to read one today that was published in my local paper. The resident said—

We have just been moved by the Queensland Department of Housing from a four-bedroom home which we lived in for 20 years. Housing could not have been more helpful. They paid all costs involved, kept us in the same area as our family all live here too. We totally understood as there are so many others waiting for homes. It is not as bad as it's being made out. We have a little dog so they made sure we have a small yard.

It is with this in mind that I am doing what I can locally to ensure the homelessness situation is addressed. In fact, on Saturday, 15 September I will be taking part in the 2012 Martin's Haven sleepout. This community fundraising event is being held to raise awareness of the issues of local homelessness and raise funds to support services such as Martin's Haven, which has been providing families who are homeless or at risk of homelessness with assistance and support to transition into housing. The format of the 2012 Martin's Haven sleepout, at which I will be joined by the member for Pumicestone, has been elevated to include a new level of community participation. They are bringing the Bathurst 12-hour straight to Caboolture!

Martin's Haven 12-hour challenge will be a fun event which will involve local identities, media, businesses, mums and dads and, of course, us pollies, jumping on a scooter and navigating around a complex obstacle course in the fastest time possible. Money will be raised through sponsorship on a per lap basis. The more laps of the obstacle course we do on the scooter the more funds we raise. The winning team of this inaugural Martin's Haven 12-hour challenge will receive a shield that I will be proudly supplying to them to present on the day. This is a great opportunity for our local community to come together in a fun way to raise awareness of homelessness in our region and make a contribution to local housing issues. I am looking forward to this event and my continued support to provide adequate housing needs for all those in our community.