




Speech by

Jo-Ann Miller

MEMBER FOR BUNDAMBA

Hansard Thursday, 2 August 2012

TENANT ADVICE AND ADVOCACY SERVICE; MINISTER FOR HOUSING AND PUBLIC WORKS

 **Mrs MILLER** (Bundamba—ALP) (5.47 pm): In another attack on vulnerable people in need, this heartless 'Landlord Minister' Dr Flegg is closing a valuable service in the Tenant Advice and Advocacy Service. This service offers invaluable assistance to people in need who have difficulties with landlords and the department of public housing. It sets out to resolve issues between the parties and protect tenants' rights. In Ipswich alone this service had 6,000 contacts. That is 6,000 families needing assistance with a dispute who have nowhere else to go; 6,000 families who have lost their voice. I table for the House page 6 of the *Ipswich News*.

Tabled paper: Extract from the Ipswich News, dated 1 August 2012, regarding the Ipswich Tenancy Advice and Advocacy Service [\[667\]](#).

It shows that Ipswich MP, Ian Berry, has finally broken his silence about local issues but then admits that he is a lame duck, unable to convince the LNP cabinet about this much needed service. Then the Ipswich MP says that residents can get advice from the RTA, which we in this House all know to be untrue. 'Landlord Minister' Dr Flegg must be in his Manhattan apartment, as he is nowhere to be seen in the Ipswich community. He is catching a Broadway show when his tenants sing out for help. 'Mamma Mia!', they cry. He thinks he is the 'Lion King', but he is more like 'Cats' and the tenants are 'Les Miserable'. It is a 'Chorus Line' of 'Wicked' and 'Beauty and the Beast' while he is the 'Fiddler on the Roof'.

Mr Newman: Who wrote this for you?

Mrs MILLER: I hear an interjection from the Premier. Can I say, 'Hello, Dolly', Premier. 'Landlord Minister' Dr Flegg cannot see that the money invested in this scheme saves money, as it supports people in private rental so that they are not placed on the public housing waiting list and it efficiently deals with large numbers of disputes, streamlining QCAT time in dealing with them.

TAAS is funded out of the interest of rental bonds. TAAS provided a very cost-effective delivery of service from this funding, with 95 dedicated workers across 29 service outlets across Queensland. Queenslanders are unsure what the rent would be on 'Landlord Minister' Dr Flegg's 'Plaza Suite', but he should move out and be the 'Music Man' for tenants so that they can hear 'The Sound of Music' and hope that 'They're Playing Our Song'.