




Speech By
Hon. Tim Mander

MEMBER FOR EVERTON

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Public Servants, Housing

 **Hon. TL MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works) (9.49 am): In a decentralised state such as Queensland there is a great demand for government employee housing and across the state we have more than 5,000 properties with a total value of almost \$1 billion. As I mentioned on Wednesday, this year's budget includes \$5.3 million to build an additional 15 units of government employee housing in remote Indigenous communities. I have no doubt that the occupants of those new properties will be extremely pleased with the quality, but sadly that is not the case right across-the-board. The reason is that in this area, as in so many others, Labor took its eye off the ball.

Last year my department conducted an audit of government employee housing and I am sorry to say that not all of it is up to scratch. Our hardworking teachers, nurses and police officers make great sacrifices to live and work in some of the most remote areas of the state, hours away from friends and family. It is only right for us to make sure that they are provided with safe, suitable and appropriately priced accommodation.

In the coming months I will have more to say on this issue, but for the time being I simply make the point that, just as they did in the social housing space, those opposite allowed a significant portion of our government employee housing to fall into disrepair. Whether that was as a result of incompetence or carelessness or a combination of both we will never know, but the end result has been to leave too many hardworking public servants living in substandard accommodation and for that they ought to be ashamed. In contrast to those opposite, the Newman government is committed to making sure that all public servants working in remote areas have access to safe, suitable and affordable places to live.