




Speech By  
**Hon. Anastacia Palaszcuk**

**MEMBER FOR INALA**

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Record of Proceedings, 5 August 2014

### **MOTION: SOCIAL HOUSING**

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Leader of the Opposition) (6.05 pm): I rise to support the motion moved by the member for Rockhampton, which notes the constant attacks by the Newman LNP government on Queensland's public housing tenants and calls on the minister to immediately rescind the restrictive and discriminatory new temporary absence policy. This new policy clearly demonstrates, once again, how out of touch this government is and how it is simply incapable of listening. This is a discriminatory practice. This should be torn up immediately and thrown into the waste bin.

I joined the Labor Party because of its values: the values of the Labor Party in relation to equality, opportunity and fairness. What does that equality mean? It means that no matter your background, where you are from, your position in life or where you work, you are treated equally. I joined the Labor Party because I believe in fairness, that people in this state should be treated with dignity and respect. Over the last two years I have seen no humility, I have seen little dignity and I have seen no respect.

I represent the seat of Inala. The seat of Inala has a large social housing component. I meet people all the time in my electorate—

**Government members:** Do you live there?

**A government member:** You don't live there.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Here we go, the arrogance is starting again. Members opposite are not listening. These people are proud people. They are proud people who go to work to earn a decent wage and they do not need to be treated like second-class citizens. This is retrograde; it is discriminatory. I encourage anyone in social housing to go in and see your LNP member and raise your concerns directly with them.

Last Friday I was out visiting Marguerite. She has had a tough life. If she wants to go and visit a sick relative or care for someone, she now has to go in and apply for that leave. That is not the same policy that is applied in the private rental market. People in social housing deserve respect. They deserve to be treated with compassion because they need a helping hand. This policy sets the benchmark about what Labor stands for and what the LNP stands for. Every day I will stand up for people in social housing who are doing it tough, who are paying their rent and who are doing the right thing. Now we have a government that wants to restrict their freedom of movement, a basic fundamental right. It is good that they are all hanging their heads in shame because it is a disgraceful policy. The housing minister—and people had high hopes for him—should hang his head in shame because it is disrespectful and the policy needs to be abandoned immediately.

I think that this says a lot about the LNP and their hypocrisy: they say that they will listen, but they are incapable of listening. After the Redcliffe by-election they said, 'We are going to listen more.' We heard it again most recently after the Stafford by-election, 'Yes, we are going to listen more. We

will make a few changes here and there.' Madam Speaker, it is all smoke and mirrors. This government is incapable of change, and this restrictive and discriminatory new temporary absence policy should be abandoned. There is no way that any decent person in this state would support what this government has done. Deputy Premier, here is your next challenge if you want to listen: tear up this policy and treat people with the dignity and respect they deserve—

*(Time expired)*