




Speech By
Hon. David Crisafulli

MEMBER FOR MUNDINGBURRA

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MOTION: SOCIAL HOUSING

 **Hon. DF CRISAFULLI** (Mundingburra—LNP) (Minister for Local Government, Community Recovery and Resilience) (6.20 pm): I am very glad to be able to make a contribution to the debate of the motion. I should start by saying that I have listened to each and every speech this evening. I am not going to do the other side a disservice and for one moment say that there has been anything but compassion in what they have said, but I honestly believe that the compassion is misdirected. I say that because it is easy when you are dealing with an issue to see it through only one prism, but I ask people to view the issue through another prism—that is, the one of the person who will never be able to have a roof over their head because of somebody who is abusing the privilege of having that right. I say with the utmost sincerity that I believe that there is sincerity in what is being said but it is misdirected and it is misguided. Good government is about being able to look at an entire issue, not just picking one part of the issue.

What those opposite call tough I call fair and balanced. The minister has struck a very good balance on this issue. It is about achieving outcomes, not about numbers. That has been the hallmark of his time as minister. You can chop it up any way you like, but under the administration of the member for Everton, more progress has been made in a short period of time than we saw in this state over a long time. As someone with a strong social conscience that makes me very happy, because fewer people will spend a night couch surfing, or spend a night on the floor of a relative's house or spend a night telling their kids that maybe the next night will be the one they are not spending in the back seat of their car. The majority of pensioners and battlers are not in public housing.

I will take a minute to quickly go through some of the contributions made to the debate tonight. The member for Inala spoke about the high percentage of public housing tenants in her electorate. I share a similar story in my electorate. In fact, the suburb of Vincent has a very high proportion of public housing tenants, and they are proud of that.

Ms Palaszczuk: They know what you are doing.

Mr CRISAFULLI: Member for Inala, I have spent a lot of time in that area, and they do know what I am doing. When a person comes to me complaining about a public housing matter and I know that their complaint is not based on fact but on a value judgement, I will always push back. But where there are people who are abusing the right, I will stand shoulder to shoulder with the neighbour who is being put through hell and with the person who will never have the right to live in that home because someone is abusing the privilege. Again, I do not doubt the compassion of the member for Inala on the issue one iota, but I do believe that it is misguided.

The member for South Brisbane spoke about waiting lists and said that somehow the waiting list is not a good barometer. It is the same waiting list that you were judged by. The guidelines are the same. Therefore, the minister's progress must be viewed in that regard and he must be commended.

You will have to excuse me for a second, Madam Speaker, but I have to say that the contribution of the member for Rockhampton was an own goal of the biggest proportions. He turned around and put it past the goalkeeper in the pigeonhole. He raised an issue concerning a lady named Mary. Unfortunately, the minister had done a little bit more homework. It turns out that Mary has been away for a year of the last four years, including an eight-month stint overseas. Hats off to the minister, who did more research than the bloke who asked the question from the adviser, who loaded the bullet. With the greatest of respect, I suggest that if somebody is capable of being overseas for eight months then that house would be best used helping somebody put a roof over their head.

In closing, public housing is not a holiday home where you can live between multiple places. I have many examples in my electorate of this happening, and the result has been either a place that has been vacant and caused to be overrun with vermin and debris or a place that people have used as a drop-in. We have made great progress. This is another step on the journey towards equality for those living in social housing.