




Speech By
Hon. Tim Mander

MEMBER FOR EVERTON

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Social Housing

 **Hon. TL MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works) (9.51 am): In a great state like Queensland, it is important that everybody has access to safe and affordable housing. The social and economic changes of the past 20 years, coupled with the systematic neglect of the Labor Party, left the housing system struggling to accommodate a demographic completely different to the one it was set up for. The profile of our tenants had changed dramatically, but the system had not.

The Queensland government has a plan to overhaul both the delivery and the perception of social housing. Long-term taxpayer subsidised housing is a privilege that should be reserved for the most vulnerable members of our society. It is not and never should be a permanent home for people who have the potential and the capability to own their own home or rent in the private market. Wherever possible, our vision is for social housing to be transitional; a temporary stop on the road to independence; part of the journey, not the final destination.

Of course, there are those who will always need our assistance and to whom we have an enduring responsibility. However, there are many others whose barriers to the private market can be overcome with the right support. Our vision is about recognising those barriers and helping people work through them, instead of Labor's tactics of assuming that they cannot, handing them a set of keys and walking away.

Turning this vision into a reality is going to take some time, but we have a plan. Last year, the government launched new housing and homelessness strategies. Over the next seven years, between them those strategies will deliver 12,000 additional social and affordable dwellings. We will unleash the potential of the non-government sector to help support our most vulnerable, providing more holistic care. We will divert 250,000 people away from long-term subsidised housing by providing alternative products like bond loans and RentConnect services. We will halve the rate of homelessness in Queensland by 2020. We will do this by partnering with community service providers to deliver a far more strategic and coordinated approach to tackling this scourge, which will ensure that more funds go to front-line service delivery than administrative overheads. This government cares deeply about our most vulnerable and will continue to work tirelessly to ensure that this great state is a true home to all who live here.