



Speech By  
**Yvette D'Ath**


**MEMBER FOR REDCLIFFE**

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## ADJOURNMENT

### Chameleon House

 **Mrs D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (8.38 pm): It is my pleasure tonight to rise to speak about Chameleon House which is a youth housing shelter in my electorate of Redcliffe. It specialises in youth crisis accommodation and living skills programs for young people. This week I had the pleasure of going along to their AGM.

I want to tell the parliament a little bit about Chameleon House. They have been operating for 26 years in Redcliffe. They have been supporting homeless young people and families in Redcliffe and the surrounding community. I know that they actually get referrals from not just across Queensland but even interstate. Specifically, they offer programs in three main areas: a specialist homeless service for young people aged 15 to 17; a transitional housing program for young families aged 18 to 25; and the I CaN HOPE Program that was launched in October 2013.

This is a non-funded program but it is for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families who are at risk of having their newborns removed at birth due to homelessness or unsuitable and/or insecure housing. They developed this I CaN HOPE Program in partnership with Ngarrama, part of the Metro North Hospital and Health Service—a free antenatal, birthing and postnatal service to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families.

I just want to give the House some of the very impressive statistics of Chameleon Youth Housing since 2011 in the delivery of quality client outcomes for accommodation being provided. Since 2011 Chameleon Youth Housing have delivered 3,597 nights to a total of 63 clients or 21 families in its transitional program comprising 27 adults—22 females, five males—and 36 children. During this time 10,282 bed nights were provided to these families. Of the 63 clients, 62 per cent are identified as Indigenous. One hundred per cent of these clients transitioned to safe and secure accommodation, demonstrating Chameleon Youth Housing's ability to provide real sustainable pathways out of homelessness by developing 'resilience, not reliance'.

I just want to congratulate Chameleon Youth Housing—their director, Carmel Riethmuller, and their wonderful staff. They have done a tremendous job over the years. They have supported so many young people in the community. They certainly have my full support and the support of the broader community. We thank them for the great work they do and we will continue to support them into the future.