




Speech By
Hon. Leeanne Enoch

MEMBER FOR ALGESTER

Record of Proceedings, 17 July 2015

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Budget, Tenant Advice and Advocacy Service

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algester—ALP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works and Minister for Science and Innovation) (9.45 am): When we are talking about the budget and figures of tens or hundreds of millions of dollars, we need to remember that every single dollar spent is intended to improve the lives of people. Every single dollar spent on facilities and services is spent to assist Queenslanders. When the Treasurer talks about the Palaszczuk government's budget as a budget for people, it is not a slogan; it is a statement of fact and one we all need to bear in mind. My portfolio of housing and public works is one area of government that can have a huge impact on the lives of Queenslanders. For example, this year we have funded the re-establishment of an independent tenants advice and advocacy service. That is more than \$6 million, but what does it actually—

Mr Mander interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Member for Everton, I give you notice that if you continue your interjections and disruption of the parliament you will be warned under standing order 253 or 253A.

Ms ENOCH: But what does it actually mean on the ground? It means that around 70,000 Queenslanders in public and private rentals will be able to access independent advice and information and, if necessary, advocacy services every year. It means that across Queensland from urban or regional areas, Logan to Longreach, there are thousands of public and private tenants who will once again be able to access independent support. These are Queenslanders who sometimes face a myriad of different issues involving their rental property, from unsatisfactory living conditions to the threat of being evicted.

As a government, we realise that the best way to stop someone becoming homeless is to give them the support they need to maintain the tenancy they are already in. Not only is it better for the tenant; in many cases it saves the community the cost of more intensive support services. Despite tens of thousands of everyday Queenslanders who rent their home asking for advice and an advocacy service from the former LNP government, they gutted tenancy services and turned their backs on these people. It also had another impact. It meant that across the state 21 local organisations which were providing these services were forced to close down. It meant that more than 90 Queenslanders lost their jobs. The Palaszczuk government's budget is a budget for people, and it is unashamedly so.