



Speech By
Rob Molhoek

MEMBER FOR SOUTHPORT

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PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Gold Coast Community Legal Centre & Advice Bureau; Robina Community Legal Centre

 **Mr MOLHOEK** (Southport—LNP) (2.38 pm): I rise today to draw attention to the great work undertaken by the Gold Coast Community Legal Centre & Advice Bureau and also the work undertaken by the Robina Community Legal Centre. It was a great privilege to have a delegation from both of those organisations here at parliament today to hear about some of the challenges they face and the work that they do. I bring to the attention of the House the fact that the Gold Coast Community Legal Centre has actually picked up an extra 3½ thousand clients in the past 12 months and some 900 of those clients indicated that there were issues of domestic violence in their circumstances. We still have a lot of work to do in terms of the way that we address and deal with the challenges of domestic violence.

Also with us today was Penny Carr, the statewide coordinator for Tenants Queensland, who gave something of an overview of how things are going in the housing sector. Which brings me to a few things that I wanted to raise with respect to Horizon Housing. Horizon Housing was created back in 2006 as a joint initiative of the government of the day and the Gold Coast City Council. They started off with \$2 million in capital, but in their latest report I note that they now have a balance sheet with \$94 million in assets and 2,500 long-term viable housing solutions and properties across the state. I am very proud of the work that Horizon Housing do on the Gold Coast. In the last year they have assisted 3,660 tenants; they have capital maintenance expenditure of over \$1 million; they handle some 68,000 phone calls a year; and they are certainly doing a great job in filling some of the accommodation gap that we see across the state between affordable public housing and a broader range of social housing needs.

I am looking forward to hearing from the minister for housing about where we are with community consultation in relation to the Logan initiative. That project was delayed some 12 months and put off the construction of 2,000 new dwellings in South-East Queensland. The flow-on effect from that which particularly concerns me is the holdup that that has had in terms of the proposals that were under consideration for Horizon Housing, who undertake significant community renewal and revitalisation of housing stocks and old public housing areas on the Gold Coast. I am looking forward to that review.

The challenge that we have had since the change of government is that, as we have heard this morning, we have a do-nothing government that is undertaking more reviews and community consultation while thousands of people remain on waiting lists and more people are waiting for urgent housing to be supplied to meet their personal needs.