




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR SOUTHPORT

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PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Public Housing

 **Mr MOLHOEK** (Southport—LNP) (2.54 pm): I rise to express concern about the deplorable track record of this do-nothing Labor government. Every week in my office at Southport one of the greatest challenges that I face is people coming to talk about the need for public housing. I would have thought that the Labor government of old would be ashamed of the Labor government today because the Labor government of old was all about looking after the battlers.

What have we seen in the last couple of years from this do-nothing government on the other side of the House in respect of public housing? I can tell members. We have seen a handful of new apartments in Southport on the Gold Coast in the last two years. They had the opportunity to progress some of most innovative housing schemes at little or no cost to government in partnership with community housing providers and community service providers. What did they do? They killed that off because they did not like it.

What about the people out there battling to get a home? I had a young mother in my office just two weeks ago. She is 27 years of age. She has a six-year-old and five-year-old. She has been abandoned by her husband and is pregnant with her third child. With 11 days to go until the baby was due she was evicted from commercial housing. She had absolutely nowhere to go. Just last week I had another person in my office. This person is a great champion of our nation who has sadly fallen on hard times, has lost a daughter to cancer and is living in a garage. This person has been on the waiting list for public housing for a considerable length of time.

I am very concerned about the lack of vision and the lack of bold direction from those on the other side of the House in respect of housing. Within the \$88 million domestic violence strategy that was launched late last year in response to the domestic violence situation there was only \$12 million over five years earmarked for crisis housing for women and families fleeing very difficult circumstances.

I think it is time that this do-nothing government started to take some real action. We do not need any more reviews. We do not need any more discussion around what needs to be done. We actually need them to come up with a concrete plan on how they are going to address one of the most fundamental needs of Queenslanders across this state—shelter. Right now there are thousands and thousands on the public housing waiting lists who need something as simple as a roof over their head. Their kids deserve the stability of knowing that they can go to one house, settle into one school and that they have a future.