




Speech By
Cynthia Lui

MEMBER FOR COOK

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PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Housing

 **Ms LUI** (Cook—ALP) (2.26 pm): The right to housing is recognised in a number of international human rights instruments. Article 25 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights recognises the right to housing as part of the right to an adequate standard of living. When it comes to speaking up for housing needs for people in my communities I will make sure that their voice is heard and I will not stop fighting for my communities. Unfortunately, I cannot say the same for the sitting member for Leichhardt, Warren Entsch, who seems to be all ears and no action.

Last year the federal LNP government ended a 50-year funding partnership to support housing for remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island communities. This program expired on 30 June 2018 and the federal LNP government made no further provision for remote housing in Queensland. What is most disappointing is the obvious lack of federal representation when it comes to advocating for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island communities in the Cook electorate. The federal Turnbull-Morrison LNP government, Senator Nigel Scullion, the Minister for Indigenous Affairs, and the member for Leichhardt, Warren Entsch, are all turning their backs and walking away from their responsibility. The silence is deafening and the message is clear: they are simply not interested.

The Remote Housing Review identified that Queensland will require an additional 1,100 dwellings over 10 years to address overcrowding. On 29 March 2018, almost 12 months ago, the Premier wrote to the coalition government offering up to \$1.08 billion over 10 years and seeking ongoing proportionate funding. On 10 October 2018 Queensland committed a further \$40 million to a modest interim housing program in 2019 to maintain some housing construction and protect local jobs.

Like on so many other local issues, Warren Entsch is missing in action. The Minister for Indigenous Affairs is silent and again communities in my electorate are left without a voice. The World Health Organization highlights the need to take a comprehensive intersectoral perspective on the issue of housing and wellbeing and placed huge emphasis on collaborative practices between levels of government to influence meaningful outcomes in the construction, maintenance and demolition of housing in ways that would influence human health, safety and wellbeing.

Who is speaking up for the family of seven children living in an overcrowded, three-bedroom house in the northern peninsula area, the mum with a child with disability on Mabuiag Island or the many other families I have spoken to through my travels? The federal LNP government has refused to advocate for continued funding in remote communities and clearly has no plan for improving affordability and closing the gap in Indigenous communities. Having a safe and secure roof over your head is not a privilege, it is a basic human right. The right to live in a safe and secure home is about equity, fairness and social justice.