




Speech By
Amy MacMahon

MEMBER FOR SOUTH BRISBANE

Record of Proceedings, 24 March 2021

MOTION

Women

 **Dr MacMAHON** (South Brisbane—Grn) (2.47 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Premier's motion to uphold the safety of women in Queensland. I was proud to join the March 4 Justice last week, along with many of my Greens colleagues and other members of parliament, calling for justice for victim/survivors of sexual assault, changes to our justice system and an economy and society where everyone, including all women, have access to the services they need to lead a good life. In a wealthy state like Queensland there is no reason why women should go without housing or struggle to access health care, justice, jobs and education.

Currently there are at least 15,000 women and girls waiting for social housing in Queensland. That is 15,000 women and girls without a safe place to call home. It is 15,000 women and girls sleeping rough or sleeping in insecure dwellings and waiting, sometimes for years, for the safety and security they deserve. Women aged over 55 are among the fastest growing group of homeless across the country. The reliance on the private market to provide safe housing, which is something that both sides of the chamber have been pushing for decades, has well and truly failed. Rental vacancy rates are at 10-year lows, rents are skyrocketing and mortgage stress was at record highs just in October. We know that the lack of affordable housing is a huge factor that deters women from leaving unsafe relationships.

We also need to acknowledge the unique challenges faced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women in Queensland who are still facing racism, discrimination, disproportionate levels of child removals, over-representation in prison, a lack of housing and barriers to health and education. I acknowledge the incredible work of women and elders on the front lines of First Nations struggles across this state.

In closing my contribution in support of this motion I say that, if the government is serious about supporting all women across Queensland to be safe in their homes and communities and is serious about meeting the calls from the thousands who marched last week, we need urgent reforms in our legal system and urgent investment in social housing in Queensland.