



Speech By  
**Hon. Leeanne Enoch**


**MEMBER FOR ALGESTER**

---

Record of Proceedings, 12 May 2021

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

**Federal Budget, Housing**

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Alger—ALP) (Minister for Communities and Housing, Minister for Digital Economy and Minister for the Arts) (10.05 am): I also acknowledge and pay tribute to Queensland's nurses and midwives. As a single mother of two very active sons, let me tell you I have had to depend on Queensland nurses many times. They are world class.

The budget delivered last night by the Morrison government has once again left vulnerable Queenslanders out in the cold. The Palaszczuk Labor government and stakeholders have been calling for the Morrison government to shoulder its responsibility and invest more in rental affordability initiatives, social housing and remote Indigenous housing. Those calls have fallen on deaf ears.

The Morrison government's big-budget housing package has nothing for those experiencing rental stress. It has no new money for those at risk of homelessness. It has nothing for remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to deal with overcrowding. There are no guarantees for the future of the National Rental Affordability Scheme except that it will end. We know that an enormous number of people are moving to Queensland and that is putting a lot of pressure on the private rental market. We are seeing more Queenslanders competing for rental accommodation and an increase in the number of vulnerable people who need housing support. But if anyone thought that this federal budget would be responsive to Queenslanders in need they would be sadly mistaken.

The Morrison government's big housing package is focused entirely on home ownership and that has not gone unnoticed. National Shelter has said that the budget continues the 'wilful disregard' the Morrison government has for investing in social and affordable housing and notes that instead they spruik the market while interfering in it and refuse to lift their share of investment in social and affordable housing that is so desperately needed. Mission Australia CEO, James Toomey, said that the Commonwealth government's absence of leadership on measures that are needed at a national level to end homelessness and increase affordable housing will force more people into homelessness. This federal government has turned its back on vulnerable people who cannot afford to buy a house and who are struggling just to pay the rent right now.

The Palaszczuk government is doing the heavy lifting when it comes to housing in this state. Our \$1.6 billion Housing Construction Jobs Program represents the biggest investment in social housing since World War II and will deliver 5,500 social housing and affordable homes by 2027. In the 2021 budget alone we have invested \$241 million to improve housing outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders including those living in remote communities. But where is Scott Morrison? He has left the field, vacated the space and left Queenslanders to fend for themselves. And from the opposition? Silence!