




Speech By
Hon. Leanne Enoch

MEMBER FOR ALGESTER

Record of Proceedings, 28 October 2021

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Social Housing

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algester—ALP) (Minister for Communities and Housing, Minister for Digital Economy and Minister for the Arts) (10.09 am): As part of our plan for economic recovery, the Palaszczuk government is investing \$2.9 billion to support better long-term housing outcomes and move more vulnerable Queenslanders into safe, secure and affordable housing sooner. This is the largest concentrated investment in social housing in Queensland's history. It includes a \$1.9 billion investment and it is backed by the new \$1 billion Housing Investment Fund to boost housing supply and increase housing and homelessness supports across Queensland, and we are looking at new and innovative ways to make the most of this investment.

Today, as announced by the Treasurer, the Queensland government is launching an expression of interest process for the Queensland Housing Investment Growth Initiative, or QHIGI as it is known. The QHIGI is an important element of our Housing and Homelessness Action Plan 2021-2025 and will deliver accelerated social and affordable housing supply of almost 7,400 homes. It will do that through the Housing Investment Fund and QuickStarts Qld funding initiatives, with an additional 1,000 homes to be made available for lease through the Help to Home program. The EOI is our call-out to developers, institutional investors, community housing providers and eligible government entities to bring forward innovative proposals to add new social homes and additional affordable housing builds or refurbishments across Queensland scaled to fit with local development. These could include projects which deliver mixed residential developments, including of course social housing. If you have a great idea, we want to hear it.

The expression of interest will enable submissions for all three QHIGI initiatives. It is designed to streamline applications and reduce the time and costs for proponents to submit their proposals. These partnerships will complement the Queensland government's own new social housing construction, purchases and headleases. By pursuing both options, we can maximise opportunities to deliver new social housing options for Queenslanders in need.

To support the expression of interest, we have released a new social housing design guideline. At its heart, the social housing design guideline demonstrates that good design contributes positively to our community's safety, livability and resilience and provides the opportunity to strengthen our ties with each other as well as reducing living costs and our impact on the environment. Developed with input from our tenants and our staff as well as from the Office of the Queensland Government Architect and industry specialists, the guideline will not only help ensure social housing homes are safe, welcoming and sustainable but also provide principles that can be used for new home constructions for all Queenslanders no matter where they live. The Palaszczuk government is committed to getting more vulnerable Queenslanders into homes sooner and we are getting on with that job.