



Speech By  
**Rob Molhoek**


**MEMBER FOR SOUTHPORT**

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## **ADJOURNMENT**

### **Social Housing**

 **Mr MOLHOEK** (Southport—LNP) (7.25 pm): I rise to speak on the important issue of social and affordable housing in Queensland. From the cape to Coolangatta we simply need more affordable and public housing. Specifically, I want to bring to the attention of the House the lack of investment in social housing by this government since coming to office in 2015.

In January I reported that there are close to 26,397 applications still on the social housing waitlist, including 16,270 who are considered in critical need. This waitlist includes more than 2,700 families from the Gold Coast. Recently we have heard the government crow about their Housing Construction Jobs Program. This program runs from 2017 to 2027. It is 10 years and includes an investment of only about \$180 million a year. This investment is hardly making a dent in the waitlist. Meanwhile, we have thousands of people living on our streets, couch surfing from one place to another, mothers living in cars and struggling to get their kids off to school. It is an epidemic in its own right. Even the Victorian Labor government has announced its plans for a \$5.3 billion investment in social housing and 12,000 new units over the next four years.

As we know, Labor axed the LNP's social housing program back in 2015 and cut the Logan and Gold Coast housing revitalisation projects. Had these projects been fully realised, we would have seen significantly more social and affordable housing in South-East Queensland. Earlier this year I pulled together a task force of local housing businesses and service providers on the Gold Coast and interested parties, including architect Barry Lee, Frances Paterson-Fleider, Rachel Vidler and Connie Crookshanks from Community Housing Limited, Tony Cossor from LifeConnect and Sheila Ponting from Gold Coast Rotary. Together, we are determined to fight the battle for more public and affordable housing on the Gold Coast.

We recently toured the successful Common Ground facility in South Brisbane. Our goal, quite simply, is to see Common Ground established on the Gold Coast. We need more long-term accommodation models for people with disability and mental health issues. I want to thank Common Ground Queensland CEO Sonya Keep and team leader Andy Johnson for showing us around. I also want to thank Karyn Walsh and her team—

**Ms Enoch** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Lui): Pause the clock. Minister, can I ask you to cease all interjections, thank you.

**Mr MOLHOEK:** I also want to thank the entire team from Micah Projects for their great hospitality. We enjoyed lunch at the Boundary Cafe in South Brisbane, which is one of their social enterprises, and we got to see many features of the Common Ground project here in Brisbane. Queenslanders deserve more public housing, and it is our role as a government to make sure that we meet their social needs.