




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR HILL

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PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Hill Electorate, Social Housing

 **Mr KNUTH** (Hill—KAP) (2.44 pm): I rise to highlight the issue that is affecting every single electorate in the state, which is the severe shortage of social housing. I raised this issue in the previous month in this parliament and *ABC News* has outlined in detail the great depth of the problem, and I now table that article.

Tabled paper: Article from *ABC News*, dated 29 April 2021, titled 'Queensland's housing crisis requires \$4.1b, social services tell state government' [644](#).

In the article the Queensland Council of Social Service gathered together 12 organisations for the Town of Nowhere campaign in which they argue that there are at least 47,000 people seeking accommodation in the state—more than the combined population of towns like Atherton, Tully and Innisfail in my electorate. The state government will boast about spending \$1.6 billion over 10 years to build 5,500 homes, but that is a fraction of what is needed. Unless they get real about how desperate the situation is, they will have a mass humanitarian issue on their hands.

In my electorate of Hill alone, there are over 800 people waiting for public housing and more than 40 families seeking emergency accommodation. At present there is no crisis accommodation on the tablelands, limited social housing and an ever-increasing waiting list as there is simply not enough housing stock in existence or being constructed to meet demand. Our local organisations are past breaking point and very little is being done to turn this around.

With the prolonged effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, the situation has worsened as people move away from larger towns and cities or return from overseas, putting upward pressure on the rental market. Availability of rental accommodation is rapidly decreasing. The prices of rental properties are soaring and becoming less available to those who desperately need affordable housing. The latest statistics show that domestic violence is increasing, but we have a desperate shortage of emergency accommodation to cater for those at risk of domestic violence.

The issue has been building for a number of years. The state government have oversold public housing properties and have not kept a surplus in hand for when it is needed. The government needs to immediately consult with organisations who are on the ground every day dealing with this issue about how to resolve the need for emergency, transitional and long-term affordable housing. If action is not taken immediately, more and more families will be living in cars and on the streets.