




Speech By
Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk

MEMBER FOR INALA

Record of Proceedings, 13 October 2022

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Housing

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympics) (10.13 am): We know that there are unprecedented housing pressures across the nation and Queensland is not immune. Those pressures are complex and that means they require complex solutions that demand broad assistance from governments, the private sector, community groups and the community themselves. I want to assure Queenslanders that we are taking action to ensure everyone has access to a safe and affordable home that meets their needs.

Last month I hosted an urgent housing round table with key stakeholders to explore the immediate actions we can take to alleviate housing challenges and identify the issues that would need to be addressed at the broader housing summit next Thursday. In the lead-up to the summit we have already delivered several actions and opportunities to help alleviate some pressures. We announced changes to enable the better use of secondary dwellings or granny flats. Many home owners are able to rent out their granny flats to Queenslanders outside of their immediate family. This will provide a boost to rental options for smaller households in a tough rental market, will enable thousands of Queenslanders to find affordable housing and will add additional properties to the rental market while new properties are being built. We also announced a \$5 million boost to our \$16 million Immediate Housing Response Package for Queenslanders, delivering critical services to support Queenslanders to secure or sustain a tenancy.

Our government is working in partnership with non-government organisations and institutions. As a round table outcome, the Catholic Church identified 90 church-owned properties that can potentially be used for housing solutions and is working with government agencies to take this forward. I also announced a partnership with Griffith University to convert 200 units of student accommodation to crisis accommodation. That initiative will provide support to vulnerable Queenslanders who are homeless or at risk of being homeless. This week the Minister for Communities and Housing and the Minister for Youth Affairs have launched our youth homelessness strategy, which is underpinned by \$30 million in funding to give young Queenslanders better access to advice and services.

Overcoming the housing challenges that Queensland currently faces will require business, the community sector and all levels of government to work together. I add that invitations to attend will be forthcoming to the Leader of the Opposition, the shadow minister, members of government and a representative from the crossbench.