




Speech By
Hon. Leanne Enoch

MEMBER FOR ALGESTER

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

International Nurses Day; Housing

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algester—ALP) (Minister for Communities and Housing, Minister for Digital Economy and Minister for the Arts) (10.35 am): I join in acknowledging all of the nurses and nurse navigators in the gallery for International Nurses Day and of course all nurses across our state. In particular I acknowledge my deadly sister Rochelle Pitt, who does a fantastic job with many others supporting good health outcomes for First Nations communities across our state. Love ya, sis! She is a deadly singer too!

The Palaszczuk government is investing \$2.9 billion in social and affordable housing, the largest concentrated investment in Queensland's history. This will increase the social and affordable housing supply by almost 10,000 dwellings over the life of our Housing Strategy, including 7,400 new homes to be commenced over the next four years. Since the Palaszczuk government came to office in 2015, we have already commenced 4,105 new social homes. This was after inheriting from the previous LNP government a net decrease of 428 social homes. Our investment means that we can house more vulnerable Queenslanders sooner. I have had the chance to travel across Queensland from Mackay to Meridan Plains visiting brand new social and affordable homes being delivered by the Palaszczuk government. I have seen firsthand sites where we are building secure, modern and affordable homes. I have seen them in construction or already tenanted to see our record investment in social and affordable housing in action.

Last week I joined the Treasurer and the Minister for Health in Redcliffe to announce 118 new social and affordable homes for Brisbane's north side—the first announcement from the Palaszczuk government's \$1 billion Housing Investment Fund. I joined Minister Scanlon in her electorate to inspect our investment of \$3.3 million to deliver 12 new social housing homes in Nerang. I met up with the member for Capalaba to inspect progress on the 11 new social housing homes we are building in his electorate, investing \$3.4 million and creating jobs. I was also pleased to drop into the member for Kawana's electorate to inspect the Palaszczuk government's \$6 million investment in 20 new social housing homes in Meridan Plains, and there are many more sites I visited in Cairns, in Bundaberg, in Townsville, in Logan, and the list goes on.

I can also update the House that the Palaszczuk government is investing \$10.5 million to partner with the Gympie Regional Council in fast-tracking a local housing action plan in the aftermath of the flooding event earlier this year. I was able to visit the Gympie community earlier this month and see firsthand how we are supporting impacted residents through our housing response. I met with Mayor Glen Hartwig about the challenges facing the Gympie region and we are working together to address local housing needs. I will acknowledge the member for Gympie, whom I have had conversations with around this, and I acknowledge his work with the council on delivering this local action plan. As a government we are working hard to respond to the pressures of the housing market in communities like Gympie and right across Queensland. It is the Palaszczuk government that is committed to more housing and more jobs, and with our record investment we are getting on with the job.