




Speech By
Hon. Leanne Enoch

MEMBER FOR ALGESTER

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Social and Affordable Housing

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algester—ALP) (Minister for Communities and Housing, Minister for Digital Economy and Minister for the Arts) (9.58 am): We know there is unprecedented demand on Queensland's housing market. That is why the Palaszczuk government has invested \$2.9 billion in social and affordable housing—the largest concentrated investment in social and affordable housing in Queensland's history. This will increase the social and affordable housing supply by almost 10,000 dwellings over the life of the Queensland Housing Strategy 2017-2027, including 7,400 new homes commenced by June 2025 under our Housing and Homelessness Action Plan 2021-2025. We are on track to deliver on our target of 727 social homes commenced in the first year of that plan. Record interstate migration, the impacts of COVID-19 and, of course, severe weather events have created unprecedented pressures on all aspects of the housing system.

We are also experiencing severe market constraints such as the supply of materials and labour force challenges. The Palaszczuk government continues to look at all options to inject more supply, whether that be through the Treasurer's Build-to-Rent program or the Housing Investment Fund, about which the Treasurer made announcements earlier this week, or the Deputy Premier's \$200 million to unlock more land. We are not just building more homes; we are committed to helping Queenslanders right across the housing system find solutions, especially our most vulnerable.

That is why today the Premier announced that we will deliver an Immediate Housing Response Package backed by a \$16 million investment in services and supports to help families secure or sustain a home. The Immediate Housing Response Package will help put a roof over the heads of families doing it tough who are living in insecure and unsafe situations. We know that we are seeing increased demand for support from Queensland families right now. The impacts of COVID-19, rising cost of living and unprecedented challenges in housing affordability and the private rental market mean that many people and families are reaching out for support.

We are not just listening: we are acting. Our \$16 million Immediate Housing Response Package will support families who are experiencing homelessness or who are at risk of homeless, prioritising First Nations people, people experiencing domestic and family violence, young people and older people. The Immediate Housing Response Package means we are increasing funding by \$7 million to our existing Rental Security Subsidy to assist around 700 families sustain tenancies. We are providing an extra \$6 million for specialist homelessness services to broker additional temporary emergency accommodation. This means that around 700 families will be supported with emergency accommodation for up to a month while they receive support for their longer term housing needs. There is also an additional \$3 million for extra support workers in funded specialist homelessness services to assist families stay in their current home or secure a new tenancy. This is alongside our \$122 million for specialist homelessness services in this state.

This Immediate Housing Response Package will be delivered alongside our current efforts to boost longer term housing supply through our historic \$2.9 billion investment in social and affordable housing in Queensland. We know it takes time to plan and build new homes, especially with the current constraints on the supply of labour and building materials. That is why we continue to pull every lever at our disposal to deliver housing solutions, including delivering alternative housing supply options for those who are eligible for social housing. We are currently engaging with the market to explore all opportunities to deliver more supply to support our traditional construction program and make social homes available sooner.

Today I can advise the House that we will be making an initial call for up to 50 factory-built homes this year to pilot this approach. That is on top of our recently launched Health to Home initiative, which aims to deliver 1,000 housing solutions through government head leasing arrangements. As a government, we are working hard to respond to unprecedented pressures and our \$16 million Immediate Housing Response Package puts this commitment into action. It is the Palaszczuk government that delivers for Queensland and the Queenslanders who need it most.