




Speech By
Hon. Leeanne Enoch

MEMBER FOR ALGESTER

Record of Proceedings, 1 September 2022

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Residential Tenancies

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algester—ALP) (Minister for Communities and Housing, Minister for Digital Economy and Minister for the Arts) (10.48 am): The Palaszczuk government is focused on delivering better services to all Queenslanders right across the housing continuum. Almost one-third of Queensland households rent their home. Therefore, with the unprecedented pressure felt by many in the private rental market right across the country, rental tenancy advice and advocacy services are critical. That is why today I am pleased to advise the House that the Palaszczuk government has extended funding for Queensland's statewide tenant advice service, QSTARS, for two more years, up to 30 June 2025. This important funding extension means Queensland tenants will have ongoing independent help and advice, continuing our commitment to delivering even better services right across Queensland.

In consideration of the demand on the system, we are also boosting funding to Tenants Queensland to administer QSTARS. The Palaszczuk government is providing a funding boost of \$275,000 this year and for the next two financial years. This will result in total funding for QSTARS of \$17.4 million until 30 June 2025.

Tenants Queensland's tenant advisory service, the same service that saw funding cut under the LNP, provides practical help to thousands of Queensland renters, helping tenants navigate their way through the rental market. Each year this important service provides around 125,000 Queensland renters with high-quality advice. QSTARS operates a statewide hotline which helps renters understand tenancy issues and their ability to exercise their rights and responsibilities. QSTARS also empowers and builds the capacity of Queensland renters to act on their own to resolve issues and provides a well-integrated network of service providers to help renters.

This funding will ensure that QSTARS has the available resources on hand to address the immediate and ongoing needs of Queensland renters, who will be able to continue accessing free advice and support. This is just part of the suite of services the Palaszczuk government delivers to assist Queenslanders to obtain or sustain a tenancy in the private rental market. In fact, just last year we helped Queenslanders with almost 200,000 forms of housing assistance to ease the pressure Queenslanders are experiencing with the housing system right now. This includes our rental security subsidy, which we recently boosted through an additional \$7 million investment. This \$7 million boost will be used to assist around 700 Queensland families to sustain tenancies by increasing the available subsidy from up to \$5,000 over six months to up to \$10,000 for 12 months. It is the Palaszczuk government that is committed to more social and affordable housing through our record \$2.9 billion investment supporting good jobs, better services and enhancing Queensland's great lifestyle.