




Speech By
Hon. Leanne Enoch

MEMBER FOR ALGESTER

Record of Proceedings, 28 October 2022

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Housing and Homelessness

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algester—ALP) (Minister for Communities and Housing, Minister for Digital Economy and Minister for the Arts) (10.12 am): The Palaszczuk government is getting on with the job of delivering more housing and better services for Queenslanders. Last week, the Premier and the Treasurer announced an additional \$1 billion injection into the Housing Investment Fund helping house more vulnerable Queenslanders sooner, which means that now we are investing a record \$3.9 billion in social and affordable housing in Queensland. We are continuing to exceed our targets for the commencement of social housing with more than 900 commencements since the launch of the second Housing and Homelessness Action Plan last year. In partnership between the Palaszczuk government and tier one community housing provider BlueCHP and the federal government, I recently marked the 4,000th social housing home completed by the Palaszczuk government since 2015.

We are not just building more homes; we are also providing better services to those who need it most. In fact, last year we provided almost 200,000 forms of housing assistance to Queenslanders. This includes products and services to help Queenslanders sustain or retain a private market tenancy including our rental security subsidy, RentConnect, bond loans and rental grants.

During last week's housing summit there was a strong focus on the lived experiences of Queenslanders who have faced homelessness. These are the people whom our housing service centres and our wonderful staff meet with every day and support; people like Andrew who was recently sleeping in a tent after a relationship breakdown. Andrew was put in touch with staff from the Bayside Housing Service Centre. Andrew said, 'The staff helped me into motel accommodation so I could move out of the tent, and that made a big difference to me.' From there, Andrew enrolled in the Skillsets for Successful Tenancies—Dollars and Sense tenancies skills course to build up his knowledge and confidence to sustain a tenancy in the private market. Once he completed the course, Andrew worked with a RentConnect officer to complete a private rental application. Andrew was able to find an affordable home in a good location through the help of our Housing Service Centre.

Our wonderful Housing Service Centre staff also helped single dad Michael with a Helping Hand Headlease to get him back on his feet and in his own home in the private rental market. Our staff at the Toowoomba Housing Service Centre helped Dezley and her five children to settle into their new private rental home. Dezley said, 'I cannot thank RentConnect enough. They have been amazing.'

Our government will continue to listen to the voices of those with lived experience, including some of the most vulnerable groups of people in our community—young Queenslanders and women aged over 55—when we are developing and implementing housing solutions right across our state.