



Speech By  
**Daniel Purdie**


**MEMBER FOR NINDERRY**

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**ADJOURNMENT**

**Housing, The Missing Middle**

 **Mr PURDIE** (Ninderry—LNP) (6.12 pm): ‘The standard you walk past is the standard you accept’ is a well used truism and has become a hallmark of this arrogant, chaotic, third-term Labor government. As we have heard many times in this chamber, particularly this week, it has become glaringly obvious to Queenslanders that the Palaszczuk government has turned a blind eye as the scale of the state’s housing crisis has continued to escalate.

Last week, we heard shocking statistics which paint a very dire picture of the reality of the housing crisis, revealing there are around 150,000 households across Queensland with unmet housing needs, including 100,000 of whom would be typically eligible for social housing. This same report published by the Queensland Council of Social Services also highlighted the dire situation being experienced here in Queensland where homelessness has risen by an alarming 22 per cent since 2017, compared to only eight per cent across the country.

This week we have heard every excuse from the government about why. Despite this crisis occurring on their watch and despite three housing round tables in as many months, they have still not delivered one extra house.

Tonight, I would like to highlight another aspect of this crisis which has been rarely spoken about. Last year, I had the fortunate opportunity to work with a parliamentary intern, Christopher Young, a Griffith University graduate, whose research project focused on some of the hidden victims of the housing crisis, which he appropriately named ‘The Missing Middle’. In his report, which he researched over a period of many months, he details the findings of his investigation into the worsening crisis of the working homeless—those people who find themselves unable to secure accommodation despite maintaining employment.

I would like to share with the House some of the key findings in Mr Young’s report, which the government would do well to consider. While acknowledging the factors that have contributed to the crisis, including COVID, rental affordability, housing availability and increasing cost-of-living pressures, the report highlights that funding for policies concerned specifically with the working homeless are almost non-existent. As a result, those in this category have little direct support and therefore are at extreme risk of falling through the cracks.

One of the report’s recommendations is the introduction of targeted policy and funding regimes, which are necessary to set the preconditions for actual growth in supply. I quote directly from his report—

Only through increasing supply will the issue of the working homeless and homelessness in general be addressed in a substantial way.

The findings of Mr Young's report are not revolutionary and in fact are consistent with the chorus of industry experts who have been calling for the same thing. While I acknowledge the government has finally embarked on some of these recommendations, there is clearly still a long way. I thank Mr Young for his extensive research and detailed report which shines a light and offers solutions to this growing crisis.