




Speech By
Hon. Leanne Enoch

MEMBER FOR ALGESTER

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Housing

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algester—ALP) (Minister for Communities and Housing, Minister for Digital Economy and Minister for the Arts) (9.59 am): At today's housing round table, we will build on the successful outcomes delivered through last year's historic Housing Summit. Since last year's budget and the Housing Summit, \$25.5 million has been allocated to specialist homelessness services across Queensland under the Immediate Housing Response Package for families. The funding has already supported more than 4,000 families with over 44,300 nights of accommodation. We are pressing full steam ahead with a social housing construction program that represents the largest concentrated investment in Queensland's history.

Since the announcement of our second housing action plan in July 2021 we have completed 816 new social housing builds under our QuickStarts program, with a further 588 currently under construction and more in the pipeline. That means that we have completed more than one new social housing home every single day since July 2021 against a backdrop of increasing pressures in the building industry. This is why we are seeking innovative new approaches to increase the supply of social and affordable housing for vulnerable Queenslanders.

We have recently purchased two former retirement villages, one in Clayfield and one in Toowoomba, for conversion into social and temporary housing, providing around 60 new homes for people in need. Today I can announce that the department of communities and housing has also leased a former retirement village in Redlands to house vulnerable Queenslanders. The property will be used as temporary accommodation for people experiencing or at risk of homelessness and it will include 26 studio units plus two three-bedroom houses. I thank the members for Redlands and Capalaba for their passionate advocacy for housing support in their community. These spot purchases are on top of our investment in 52 prefabricated homes which will put new social housing stock into the system sooner. Eighteen of these prefabricated homes are being constructed by VOLO Modular, a local manufacturer in Yatala which the member for Macalister and I recently visited. Once complete, these homes will be sent right across Queensland including to rural and regional parts of the state. This investment is supporting local business and local jobs while delivering more social and affordable housing for Queenslanders.

Since the summit, as the Premier has outlined today, we have provided extra funding to help vulnerable renters keep a roof over their head and provided additional support for after-hours outreach for people who are experiencing homelessness or sleeping rough. These initiatives are being delivered right now in partnership with specialist homelessness services across the state. They are another sign of the Palaszczuk government's commitment to increasing the supply of social and affordable housing and to providing more homelessness support. Since 2015 the Palaszczuk government has commenced 5,299 social housing dwellings across Queensland, and we are on track to meet our target of 13,000 commencements by 2027. While our government's investment is substantial, we know that the state

government alone cannot provide all of the solutions to the housing pressures we are facing. I look forward to today's round table, where we will continue working in partnership with key stakeholders from across the housing system.