




Speech By
Hon. Meaghan Scanlon

MEMBER FOR GAVEN

Record of Proceedings, 13 June 2023

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Social and Affordable Housing

 **Hon. MAJ SCANLON** (Gaven—ALP) (Minister for Housing) (9.55 am): Recently the member for Caloundra and I met with new mum Amelia who bravely shared her story. At 30 weeks pregnant with her soon-to-be son Luca, Amelia became homeless. She was able to receive emergency accommodation and keep a roof over her head during her pregnancy. I am pleased to say she has now found a new permanent place to call home in a new social housing development at Beerwah on the Sunshine Coast. She is one of the dozens of new residents at the 33-unit complex built by the Palaszczuk government and delivered alongside community housing provider Coast2Bay. With Luca, she now has a safe place to call home that is close to vital services, shops and transport.

People like Amelia are why this government has committed the largest concentrated investment in social and affordable housing in Queensland's history to help deliver 13,000 homes and why last week the Treasurer and I announced that this year's budget will build on that, including \$64 million of additional funding for emergency supported accommodation. The accommodation will provide immediate support for people and families experiencing or at risk of homelessness. It means a bed to sleep in, a place with a roof and wraparound support if you need it.

Across the country housing pressures are having an impact, including here in Queensland. That is why we are taking action with a record investment in new social and affordable homes and providing more immediate services to those who need it. It adds to other housing and homelessness supports the government currently provides, including rental grants, bond loans and headleases, and builds on the three former retirement villages we are turning into accommodation in Redlands, Toowoomba and Clayfield.

I have seen the power social housing and reform can have on people's lives. It is why I am proud to be a part of a Palaszczuk government that is for social housing, for helping Queenslanders rent or buy their home, and for helping each other out when we are at our most vulnerable. Today's budget is one that reflects our collective ambition, one that is focused on cost of living, health and housing for every Queenslanders.