




Speech By
Hon. Meaghan Scanlon

MEMBER FOR GAVEN

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

First Nations Housing Action Plan

 **Hon. MAJ SCANLON** (Gaven—ALP) (Minister for Housing) (9.47 am): Closing the gap is underpinned by the belief that when Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have a voice—a genuine say in the design and delivery of policies, programs and services that affect them—better life outcomes are achieved. While significant progress has been made to reduce overcrowding in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander households, the gap is still too high. To change that, last week I announced the next phase of our new First Nations Housing Action Plan—a plan that will be designed with the voices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. It builds on the work we have already done in our first plan: establishing a First Nations housing peak body; supporting First Nations home ownership with 205 homes transferred, new builds, home extensions and additional land lots; and a First Nations traineeship program supporting 61 First Nations people to get a qualification and on-the-job training.

What is clear is that, while we continue to invest, more is needed in housing for remote communities, and of course there is still more work to be done. That is why it was so disappointing that the former federal LNP government walked away from the National Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Housing. In stark contrast, in this year's budget, we are investing \$153 million of additional funding to roll out First Nations housing solutions and continue the delivery of remote and discrete community social housing.

A house is not just a home; it is an avenue to better education, employment and financial and health outcomes. There is still more to do, but if we are ever going to close the gap we must listen to the voices of First Nations people, and that is exactly what our Labor government will do.