




Speech By
Hon. Meaghan Scanlon

MEMBER FOR GAVEN

Record of Proceedings, 10 October 2023

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Homelessness Services

 **Hon. MAJ SCANLON** (Gaven—ALP) (Minister for Housing) (9.56 am): The Palaszczuk government's focus is not only on building homes but also on building lives and supporting people who are doing it tough in their most challenging moments. One of the ways we do that is through investing in supported accommodation which provides wraparound help for people who would otherwise find it difficult to live independently. Today I am pleased to announce that we are providing \$1.4 million to establish a supported accommodation service for young people at risk of homelessness on the Sunshine Coast. A disused church in Nambour has been transformed to help young people who are vulnerable and struggling. It includes 22 fully furnished rooms, complete with an en suite and study area. The Integrated Family and Youth Service, which will run the facility, will provide an onsite caretaker to make sure these young people get extra support to change their lives for the better. This is the first temporary supported accommodation service specifically targeted at young people in the area. Investments like this are important because we know that more than 21 per cent of people supported by the Palaszczuk government's specialist homelessness services on the Sunshine Coast are young people aged between 15 and 24 years.

Today is World Homelessness Day, a day that calls on us all to work to prevent and end homelessness and alleviate the suffering of those experiencing it. We know that homelessness can affect anyone. Everyone's story is different. For some it is fleeing domestic and family violence—the monster in the kitchen. For some it is reaching retirement age after years of unpaid or low-wage work and not having enough super to afford housing. For others it can be battling a whole range of often complex factors that make it hard to hold down a job and make ends meet. Whatever it is, everyone deserves a secure place to call home. That is why we are funding 13,500 new social homes as part of our Big Build. It is why we provide rental grants to help fill the gap when things get tough. It is why we fund 194 specialist homelessness services across the state to deliver outreach and support for people who are experiencing homelessness. I can update the House that in the last year alone those services have helped over 45,000 Queenslanders doing it tough and, in partnership with the Queensland government, they have provided over 1.6 million nights of accommodation. We do this because Labor governments believe that nobody should be left behind.