




Speech By
Hon. Meaghan Scanlon

MEMBER FOR GAVEN

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Youth

 **Hon. MAJ SCANLON** (Gaven—ALP) (Minister for Housing) (10.05 am): One of the biggest challenges for young people who are leaving government services is the transition to live independently. It can be hard if you do not have a safety net. What we have heard is that something as simple as furniture, moving costs or transport can be the barrier. We have seen some great outcomes through our youth foyers and justice programs, and we want to make sure a young person's next step to independence is successful. Today I am pleased to announce a \$4.6 million package to help young people set up their life. Eligible young people exiting government services can get help with costs of up to \$5,000 to afford the basics, from furnishing a property or purchasing textbooks or uniforms through to transport to get them to employment. A young person will discuss their needs with their support worker or a staff member, and agencies, service providers or housing service centres can apply to access the funding on the young person's behalf. This has been welcomed by the Queensland Youth Housing Coalition. Executive director Lorraine Dupree said—

Given poverty is both a causal factor to youth homelessness and an impediment to young people accessing housing and stability, financial assistance will benefit young people who are experiencing homelessness or at risk.

Investments like this help young people to achieve long-term goals like employment and education. It gives them dignity, respect and a chance at a good life. That is what Labor governments believe in, and that is what we are delivering.