




Speech By
Christopher Whiting

MEMBER FOR BANCROFT

Record of Proceedings, 15 February 2024

ADJOURNMENT

Bancroft Electorate, Homelessness

 **Mr WHITING** (Bancroft—ALP) (6.07 pm): I want to start by describing the great work that my community and government services are doing to help the homeless people in my area. I want to describe specifically how the effort will be strengthened by the new Homes for Queenslanders plan from the Miles government. In our local area a number of us work together to help out those people who are enduring homelessness. There is a joint team visit to a lot of those areas involving the police, council and our Housing Service Centre as well. They go down and see what the people need and encourage them to apply for temporary accommodation and refer them on and help them on to the next step. I want to pay tribute to the hardworking staff of the Housing Service Centre at Caboolture which does great work—incredible work—through the Moreton Bay area.

It is clear that we have a great local system in our area and a really good and effective local network to help out those people who are enduring homelessness, and often it starts with my electorate office. A lot of people come through the electorate office requesting help. I think every second day or so we have people coming in who are living in a tent or in a car, and they are also referred from the Lighthouse Centre, which is a Foodbank in Deception Bay, or the Deception Bay Neighbourhood Centre. Sometimes people just simply drop in. They know that they can drop into my office and we can help them out.

I want to pay tribute to the Deception Bay Neighbourhood Centre and the Lighthouse Centre run by Pastor David which gives referrals and helps distribute food to those people who need it most. Not only that, we have other community groups pitching in such as the Deception Bay Lions and the Deception Bay Meals on Wheels. Every week they run a dinner at Apex Park to help people out and other groups like Fill Your Cup have dropped in to help out, as have other people from our community.

We have a good local system for people enduring homelessness, but it will get better because of the Homes for Queenslanders plan from the Miles government. That will see a 20 per cent increase in capacity for our homelessness services in Deception Bay and Moreton Bay. We will see our critical response teams in Moreton Bay strengthened by this plan from the Miles government and we will be expanding the immediate housing response package, which has been helpful in putting people into temporary accommodation for the short term. In conclusion, I thank my community for helping out and not condemning those people who are living in cars and tents in our area. We will see more support from the Miles government.