




Speech By
Hon. Meaghan Scanlon

MEMBER FOR GAVEN

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Youth Services

 **Hon. MAJ SCANLON** (Gaven—ALP) (Minister for Housing, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Public Works) (10.11 am): Yesterday was Youth Homelessness Matters Day and I visited Brisbane Youth Service, which we have funded to set up a one-stop shop for young people sleeping rough and we have increased their funding. Later this week, I will be meeting with young people to talk about how we are continuing that investment right across the state through our Homes for Queenslanders plan. This will help people like Jannine who had nowhere to go after finishing school and ended up couch surfing. With our investment to build the Gold Coast Youth Foyer, her life was transformed. She said—

Besides giving us a place to live, there are people that care about you. Even though it's their job, you can just tell that they care—and that makes a massive difference.

Now, Jannine dreams of becoming a community service worker to help other young people.

We want to help more people like Jannine. That is why as part of our Homes for Queenslanders plan we will build eight new youth foyers, with the first three being in Cairns, Hervey Bay and Moreton Bay. We will help young renters with more cost-of-living support to cover rent increases or when they fall behind. We will back them with reforms to outlaw rent bidding and make sure bond claims are backed up with evidence. We will also help first home buyers by doubling the First Home Owner Grant. We are working to be the first state in the country to introduce the Help to Buy scheme, which is a program that will help low- and middle-income families achieve their dream—if only those opposite and the Greens would stop blocking it in the federal parliament.

To do all of that—to build more homes faster—we will enlist the help of young Queenslanders, giving them free TAFE and apprenticeships and rebuilding QBuild so they can have a good job and build the homes we need. On this side of the house, we back young Queenslanders. We back first home buyers. We back our public builder, QBuild, and TAFE. We back young renters. Those opposite think all of those measures are too much. The Leader of the Opposition pretty much admitted this week that he does not support renters. Young Queenslanders have a very clear choice—an LNP which will leave them in the lurch or a Miles Labor government that will build more homes for Queenslanders.