




Speech By
Hon. Meaghan Scanlon

MEMBER FOR GAVEN

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Women, Housing

 **Hon. MAJ SCANLON** (Gaven—ALP) (Minister for Housing, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Public Works) (10.22 am): On average, Australian women earn 14 per cent less than men and median superannuation is 23 per cent lower. Eighty per cent of one-parent families across the country are single mothers. These statistics mean it is often harder for women to maintain stable, affordable and secure housing. For an Australian woman to save for a house deposit, it would take one more year than it would take for a man. That needs to change. Supporting and enfranchising women in the housing system was a core part of our Homes for Queenslanders plan. We are investing in programs and projects specifically targeted to women. We have bought the former Menso Hotel through our Housing Investment Fund. That project has now welcomed expectant mums and older women, delivering a safe place to stay close to the services and wraparound support they need.

We have partnered with Coast2Bay and Lily House on the Sunshine Coast to build 14 homes for women and children escaping domestic and family violence and with the Lady Musgrave Trust to build in the Waterford electorate some additional houses for women and families escaping domestic and family violence. We are also building a 40-home Townsville Youth Foyer to help give young women like Elma, whom we had the opportunity to meet, their own space and the best chance to study and get a good job. We are working with Y Queensland to deliver another 47 affordable homes for older women in Mango Hill. We have implemented key rental reforms that give women experiencing domestic and family violence more choice and greater rights and protections, and we are supporting women and their children at risk of homelessness due to domestic and family violence with financial support so they can buy essential whitegoods and access services—things that are critical in leaving a violent household and starting a new home—because it is about an equal shot, a level playing field and a fair go. It is only a Labor government that can be trusted to deliver a woman's right to abortion services, affordable housing and economic security.