




Speech By
Ariana Doolan

MEMBER FOR PUMICESTONE

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REVENUE LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

 **Miss DOOLAN** (Pumicestone—LNP) (4.28 pm): I rise today to speak in support of the Revenue Legislation Amendment Bill 2024, a bill that delivers on our promises, provides real cost-of-living relief, supports home ownership and ensures Queenslanders can afford to go and see a doctor. For too long, families, young people and retirees in my electorate of Pumicestone have faced rising costs, increasing pressures and roadblocks put in place by the former government. Whether it is home ownership slipping further out of reach or young families struggling to save a deposit, one thing is clear: Labor failed Queenslanders, and our government is here to fix it.

There was a time in Queensland when owning a home was not a privilege, it was an expectation. It was something that every hardworking Queenslanders, no matter their background, could reasonably aspire to. That is no longer the case. The statistics are confronting: home ownership in Queensland has dropped to 63.5 per cent—the lowest in the nation; only 35 per cent of Queenslanders aged 25 to 29 own a home; and more young Queenslanders are renting than owning—236,210 renters compared to 227,572 home owners aged 25 to 39. These are not just statistics; this is the reality for thousands of young Queenslanders, like myself, who feel locked out of the market.

In Pumicestone I hear these stories every day. Just a few weeks ago I spoke with a young couple from Bribie—both working full-time and both doing everything right, yet they could not break into the housing market because of up-front costs like stamp duty. This bill delivers real relief by abolishing stamp duty for first home buyers purchasing a new home. For a young couple in Sandstone Point or Ningi, this means saving more than \$24,000 on a new home worth \$850,000. For a first home buyer in Toorbul, Elimbah or Caboolture, that is the difference between staying stuck in the rental market or stepping onto the property ladder.

We also know that buying a home is not just about getting the keys; it is about being able to keep the home and afford the mortgage. That is why this bill also removes outdated restrictions that punished first home buyers for renting out a spare room. Under Labor's rules, if a young home owner rented out a spare room to a friend or a flatmate, they lost their stamp duty concession. This made no sense. I have spoken to many young people in Pumicestone who said that having a flatmate would make all the difference, helping them cover mortgage repayments, save for the future and get ahead. Take, for example, my friend Josiah, a young teacher at Caboolture State School who lives in Ningi and was considering buying his first home. He told me that if he could rent out a spare room to a friend it would make home ownership affordable for him. With this change, he now can. This is a commonsense reform that will help young people afford their mortgages, encourage more first home buyers to enter the market and ease pressure on the rental market by creating more rental availability. This is how we make home ownership possible again—by removing unnecessary barriers, providing financial relief and giving young people more choice.

While housing is a major challenge, it is not the only crisis Queenslanders have faced under Labor. We also inherited a healthcare system in turmoil—a system where patients would be forced to pay more to see their GP because of Labor's patients tax. This was a direct tax on Queenslanders'

health. Under the former government's payroll tax changes, GPs would have been slammed with unexpected tax bills that would have given them no choice but to pass these costs onto the patients. The results would have been devastating: bulk-billing rates plummeting, GPs considering cutting services or closing their doors, Queenslanders being forced into emergency departments instead of seeing a GP. In Pumicestone, Labor's patients tax would have had real consequences. In communities like Bribie Island, which has one of the highest populations of seniors in Queensland, this tax would have made health care unaffordable for those who need it most. I remember speaking to an elderly couple in Bongaree who told me they had been bulk-billed for years but were worried about being charged more if their GP could not absorb the cost of Labor's patients tax. This is not something people should have to worry about.

This bill abolishes the patients tax once and for all. We are removing payroll tax for GPs, ensuring Queenslanders can see a doctor and not have to pay more. AMA Queensland called this a game changer, saying it will save practices from closing and will keep health care affordable. This is not just about patients; this is about reducing pressure on our already overstretched hospital system. If people cannot afford to see a GP they end up in emergency departments, increasing wait times and putting even more pressure on our frontline health workers. This bill ensures that does not happen.

I want to make one thing clear: Labor had every opportunity to fix these problems, and they failed. They had 10 years to act on home ownership—they ignored the problem. They had 10 years of warnings about their patients tax—they refused to listen. It was only when they were staring down an election defeat that they scrambled for last-minute fixes, but Queenslanders saw through it. This government, the Crisafulli LNP government, is taking real action. That is why we appointed Queensland's first ever Minister for Home Ownership—because we take this crisis seriously. That is why we immediately instructed the Treasury to scrap Labor's patients tax—because we know Queenslanders deserve affordable health care.

This bill is about real solutions, real action and real relief for Queenslanders. It will abolish stamp duty for homebuyers purchasing new homes; give first home buyers the flexibility to rent out a room to ease mortgage stress; and scrap Labor's patients tax and make GP visits affordable. This is a government that is focused on solutions—helping Queenslanders to buy a home, pay the bills and see a doctor without financial stress. This is what we promised to Queenslanders, and this is what we are delivering. I am proud to stand here today as the member for Pumicestone in support of this bill, because I know it will make a real difference to the people in my community. I commend the bill to the House.