



Speech By
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MEMBER FOR SOUTH BRISBANE

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PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Affordable Housing

 **Dr O'SHEA** (South Brisbane—ALP) (2.35 pm): This evening in my electorate of South Brisbane, just across the river from here, people will be getting ready for yet another night sleeping in tents in our parks and along our river banks or in sleeping bags in shop doorways and under buildings. Those are the people we can see. Others are sleeping in cars, on friends' floors and couches.

Our homelessness services work tirelessly trying to find emergency accommodation for the homeless, but there is a shortage of emergency housing and this government's new immediate housing rules make it harder for people to get into emergency accommodation. With over 53,000 people on the waiting list for public housing, there is a massive shortage of long-term housing.

Meanwhile, the private rental market has become completely unaffordable for people on low incomes. Rents have been increasing almost three times faster than wages. With the average rent for a unit in Brisbane now \$650 a week and vacancies sitting below one per cent, renters are being priced out of the market and forced into homelessness.

I visited a retirement village in my community late last year and met Coral, who is in her late seventies. She asked me to table this article in the *Guardian* from October, which I would like to do now, about her daughter Tammie Thrower.

Tabled paper: Article from the *Guardian*, dated 19 October 2025, titled 'Evicted and dying of cancer, Tammie spent her final months desperately house-hunting in Brisbane' [181](#).

Tammie was a mother of three, a dental nurse and a children's swimming instructor. Last year, while struggling with cancer that had spread to her brain, Tammie's lease ended and she was evicted from her rental property. Tammie spent the final precious months of her life stressed and desperate, searching in vain for a place to rent. She ended up spending her last weeks sleeping in her mother's bed at the retirement home while Coral slept on the couch.

Tammie was just 50 years old when she died in August last year and, as this article points out, was one of the many Queenslanders with life-threatening and terminal illness unable to find an affordable home. Coral wanted me to share Tammie's story with this parliament so that this government is aware of the human cost of the housing crisis taking place outside these walls. I would encourage all members to read the article. I ask the government to increase access to emergency accommodation and build, not cut, affordable housing so that all Queenslanders, particularly our most vulnerable, can have the dignity of having a roof over their heads.

(Time expired)