




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR SANDGATE

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PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Sandgate Electorate, Housing

 **Ms ASIF** (Sandgate—ALP) (2.12 pm): Families in my community are doing it tough. Every day my office gets several calls and emails outlining heartbreaking stories of hardworking Queenslanders who have been forced to choose between keeping a roof over their heads and putting food on the table. The Crisafulli LNP government promised them a fresh start. They promised to tackle the cost of living. They stood in front of the cameras and made this commitment—I know how much the Deputy Premier loves the camera. They said all of the right things about making life more affordable, but what have they delivered? They have delivered cuts and broken promises.

Parts of Queensland have become the most unaffordable in the country. Three in four renters across Queensland are in rental stress in some suburbs in my community, like Bracken Ridge, Taigum, Sandgate, Deagon and Brighton. Between 80 and 89 per cent of renters are facing rental stress. Ordinary families, who keep the state running, simply cannot afford to pay the bills and pay rent. For them, it is a choice between their bills and a meal on the table. There are parents who are going hungry so their kids can eat. Single parents, single-income families and households relying on government assistance simply cannot afford a rental property in Queensland.

Mr Molhoek interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr McDonald): Member for Southport!

Ms ASIF: Nearly half a million Queensland households cannot afford the basics after paying rent. There is no cost-of-living relief and no energy rebate. Instead, what is this government doing? They are making it worse. This year the Deputy Premier and housing minister have cut more than 10,000 social homes. They have gone and axed even the legislated minimum target requirements for social housing, while the social housing list skyrockets. I am not surprised. This is who they are. This is what they do. This is their track record.

Let me tell this Premier about real Queenslanders this government is failing. Veronica is drowning in rental arrears. Deb has water leaking in her social housing home and she cannot even get assistance, even after several attempts to get help. Kate, a single mother fleeing domestic violence, is begging for social housing support. Rob called housing services 10 times before anyone even responded to him. Kevin has been homeless for almost eight months and sleeping on the street near my office, while the housing minister has cut social homes. He has no hope of getting housing help.

Where is the minister for these people? Where is the compassion they were promised? Queenslanders voted for a promise of a more prosperous future. They want what they were told they were going to get, not the same old LNP cuts to services, broken promises and complete disregard for working families. It is not just a failure; it is a deliberate choice to abandon ordinary families and prioritise ideologies over people's livelihoods.

If the government will not deliver and build affordable homes, what chance do vulnerable Queenslanders have? We cannot accept a government where essential workers cannot afford to live in the communities they serve and where parents go without food to be able to pay rent. My community and Queensland deserves so much better than what this government is offering them.