




Speech By
Joan Pease

MEMBER FOR LYTTON

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ADJOURNMENT

Thrower, Ms T

 **Ms PEASE** (Lytton—ALP) (9.28 pm): Today I rise to speak about a tragedy that should trouble every member of this House—the story of Tammie Thrower, a Wynnum woman who spent her final months fighting homelessness while dying of stage 4 bowel and brain cancer. Tammie was not just a statistic—she was a daughter, a mother, a friend and a neighbour—yet she was failed by a system that should have protected her. In June this year her mother, Coral Clarke, contacted my office in desperation. After six years in the same Wynnum home, Tammie was issued with a no-fault eviction notice while terminally ill. She had nowhere to go. My office worked urgently with Bayside Housing and referred the family to multiple services. The family was already working with the department of housing and Micah Projects and everyone was pursuing every possible lead.

Despite the compassion of our frontline workers, no home was secured—no stability, no dignity and, instead of resting, Tammie spent her final months searching for a place to die. This is not an isolated failure. Tammie’s mum, Coral, wants everyone to know about Tammie and her battle. Micah Projects have advised that 21 people with terminal illness died while homeless in Queensland over the past 12 months alone and the youngest was just 27. QCOSS have advised that the figure of people on the Social Housing Register has exceeded 56,000 people—higher than the government’s August figure of 53,874 people. That means there are over 56,000 vulnerable Queenslanders waiting for a roof—families, older women, people with disability and young people with nowhere to go.

Homelessness services are overwhelmed, electorate offices across the state are inundated. In my decade as a member of parliament and in the prior 10 years as electorate officer, I have never seen the crisis this dire. Tammie’s story is not about bureaucracy; it is about humility and humanity. She did not need another referral; Tammie needed a home. This is not a moral failure—not just a policy failure, but of empathy. We urgently need a coordinated housing pathway for Queenslanders facing serious illness or disability. We need transparency in how Commonwealth housing funds are delivered and we need to build—not just announce—social and affordable houses, because no Queenslanders should ever spend their final days without the security of a place to call home.