



Speech By  
**Hon. Leanne Linard**


**MEMBER FOR NUDGE**

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## **ADJOURNMENT**

### **Forgotten Women: Live Like Her Challenge**

 **Hon. LM LINARD** (Nudgee—ALP) (9.07 pm): Last month I participated in the Forgotten Women: Live Like Her Challenge when I spent a night sleeping in my car in solidarity with the many forgotten women aged over 55 from across our community who will be doing the same thing tonight and every night. Women over the age of 55 are the fastest growing homeless population in Australia. Tonight across Brisbane and the Gold Coast, more than 1,000 of those women will sleep rough in cars, couch surfing or on the street, alone and in many cases unsafe but in all cases vulnerable. They are the women who have spent years caring for others. They are our grandmothers, mothers, aunts, sisters and friends who spent much of their lives looking after families and often stepping out of paid work to care for others. They have little superannuation because compulsory superannuation only came into force in 1992, because equal pay was not granted until 1969 and because between 1940 and 1960 women made up just 25 per cent of the workforce.

When local financial broker Cara Haynes, who owns Loan Market in Wavell Heights in my electorate, approached me and asked me to join her team to shine a light on and lift up the plight of women who spent their lives lifting us up, I could only say yes. When I told my family what I was doing, my 11-year-old son, Ollie, was so deeply moved that his mum would be sleeping alone in a car—that anyone's mum could be alone and forced to sleep in their car—that he came too. While Ollie and I and over 400 others spent a cold and uncomfortable night, we knew it was for only one night. However, for 1,000 women tonight and every night is no awareness challenge; it is their life.

The mission of the Forgotten Women's project is simple: to provide fit-for-purpose housing for homeless women aged over 55, with individually tailored support whether in a safe home built and managed by the project or through the provision of rental subsidies to keep women in safe and stable housing. The work of the Forgotten Women's project is literally life-changing and life-saving because every woman deserves to live with dignity and age safely in place.

Homelessness is a problem that goes beyond 'rooflessness' and a lack of access to safe shelter. It includes vulnerable people living in refuges, crisis accommodation or temporary housing. It is a problem made worse by the LNP having changed the rules to make it harder for people experiencing homelessness to get help and accommodation. This was a recent change made by the government. By changing the guidelines, only people on the social housing waitlist can be offered emergency accommodation. This means that two pensioners who might sleep in a tent or a single mum working full-time on the minimum wage with two sleeping in her car would not be eligible. Every Queenslanders deserves to live with dignity, and tonight there are too many not able to do so.