



Speech By
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MEMBER FOR TOOHEY

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ADJOURNMENT

Youth Foyers

 **Mr RUSSO** (Toohey—ALP) (9.06 pm): I rise to speak today about a Labor initiative that has transformed the lives of many young people in Queensland: youth foyers. For too long young Queenslanders have faced the challenges of housing insecurity. As a matter of fact, 4,500 young people experience homelessness on any given night in Queensland. On a nationwide scale, 122,000 people experience homelessness each night—18,000 of them are believed to be aged under 12. To make it worse, an overwhelming majority of young people are homeless due to domestic and family violence.

Youth foyers are accommodation for young people committed to engaging in education, training or employment and for young people who need a safe and stable environment to live in as they build their future as adults. Each youth foyer holds up to 40 young individuals and surrounds them with 24/7 experienced youth workers. The idea was built on a strong, simple belief: every young person deserves the tools to build a better life regardless of their social class, background and past challenges they have had to face.

Youth foyers are more than just a roof over one's head. They provide opportunity, stability and hope. For people between the ages of 16 and 25 who are suffering or at risk of homelessness, youth foyers offer a safe environment alongside education, training and pathways to employment. The statistics speak for themselves: 67 per cent of students leave a youth foyer with a year 12 or certificate III qualification. A year later the percentage is even higher, at 75 per cent. Thirty-one per cent of students have a part-time or permanent job when they leave a youth foyer and, of course, many others are still studying. Forty-three per cent of students move into their own rental place when they leave a youth foyer and a year later 51 per cent have their own housing.

Youth foyers are a Labor initiative introduced by the former Palaszczuk government. While we were in power, Labor delivered three youth foyers. In 2019 the Logan youth foyer was officially opened. The Logan youth foyer is known for its holistic approach.