




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR SOUTHPORT

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REVENUE LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

 **Mr MOLHOEK** (Southport—LNP) (8.31 pm): I rise today to speak in support of the Revenue Legislation Amendment Bill 2024—a crucial step in delivering on our government's promise to restore home ownership, ease the cost-of-living pressures and ensure that Queenslanders have access to affordable health care. For far too long the previous government allowed home ownership to become unattainable for young people. Young Queenslanders were locked out of the housing market—a housing market that favoured investors instead of families who need housing the most, forcing them to rent in a market with high demand and low housing stock. We have also suffered from a healthcare system that punishes patients instead of supporting them.

I enjoyed hearing from the member for Cook as he shared some insights into his own family. As a father of four, I have had the pleasure on many occasions of sitting with my son and his friends and listening to them talk about the challenges of getting into the home market. Sadly, many young people have actually given up. They believe that they will never be able to own their own home. In fact, the Premier has spoken on many occasions about a group of young leaders whom he came and addressed in my office one Saturday morning about a year ago. There were 20 young people in the room. There were university graduates, construction workers, people working in retail and a couple of architects within the group. He asked the group: 'How many of you in the room still believe in the possibility of owning your own home?' Sadly, out of a group of 20 young people only four on that occasion actually put their hand up and said, 'That is something I still aspire to.' The others indicated that they thought it was way out of reach.

I love it when the member for Bundaberg gets up and speaks in the House. It is akin to a comedy spot at one of those late-night bars in Surfers Paradise or in the Valley where you go to hear a comedian rail against all sorts of nonsense. There is a reason Labor are sitting on this side of the House. There is a reason the Labor Party is in much disarray. It is simple: they have lost their way. About 18 months to two years ago we had the biggest surplus in Queensland that we had ever experienced—a \$12 billion surplus, or that is what the Treasurer told us at the time. Disappointingly, not one extra cent was committed to public or affordable housing in the state of Queensland.

I would contend that this party has absolutely lost its way. They love to rail against us saying, 'We're here for the battlers. We're here for the workers. We want a fair go for everyone. We're here to make sure that the evil LNP look after people. We hold them to account.' The reality is that I think there are members on this side of the House who need to perhaps go online, go to the Labor Party website, download a copy of their constitution and get a refresher on what they stand for.

Consistently in Queensland over the last 15 years—and I have been tracking this for some time because public and affordable housing is something of a passion of mine; supportive housing is something I am very passionate about—we have seen the state budget for housing sit at around \$440 million. For 15 years that budget has barely moved. Of that \$440 million, typically about \$100 million has been for maintenance and servicing of the current public housing stock. Typically about

\$80 million to \$120 million has been allocated to community housing providers and dished out as grants to provide other forms of housing. The balance has been spent on land acquisition and some of it on constructing new houses.

On the Gold Coast we have seen years when there were eight new public housing dwellings built or other years when there were only 15 or 20 houses built. If you look at those figures and the proportion that has been spent on the Gold Coast over the last 15 years compared on a pro rata basis to population, we have seen massive underspending on the Gold Coast and in South-East Queensland compared to other parts of the state. When the member for Bundaberg rails against us and says how we do not care, I find it personally offensive and somewhat galling.

I remind the House that it was the LNP under Jeff Seeney as deputy premier that introduced the planning provisions and the codes of development in Queensland. That actually made it possible to develop affordable housing in Queensland. That actually provided codes that allowed for less parking in some developments. That allowed for developments to have high bedroom rates and higher density in key locations and suitable locations so that it was possible to construct more affordable housing.

What a pleasure it was this week to join the new housing minister, Sam O'Connor, at Southport as we turned the sod on a project. The Brisbane Housing Company will construct 200 new apartments. It is affordable housing. It is blue-collar worker housing and housing for teachers, administrators, nurses and other people who typically cannot afford to get into the market but who need a roof over their head.

In just a few weeks we will see the sod turned on a project that many of us have worked on for a number of years, and that is the establishment of Common Ground at Southport—a complex that will be designed to provide support to people who simply struggle to maintain a tenancy—people with mental health issues, people with PTSD, people with drug and alcohol challenges who require long-term tenancy and long-term support. I am proud to be part of an LNP government that is committed to these projects—that does not just talk about projects but actually delivers.

I want to turn to the other part of this bill in terms of the patients tax. What a great way for Labor to reward the doctors of Queensland in the middle of a health crisis when GPs are struggling! I had the privilege of sitting on the health committee for a number of years now. Members on this side of the House and I have travelled around Queensland.

We heard stories from GP practices in some of the most remote and regional parts of the state. We also heard from GP practices in Ipswich, Logan, Gold Coast, parts of the Sunshine Coast, Nambour, Mackay and other centres. Everywhere we went we heard stories of GP practices that were struggling to cope with the rising demand and the health crisis. What does the Labor government of the day do to say thanks to all those GPs who are working so hard to provide adequate health care across Queensland? They hit them with a tax. Let's change the rules and make it more difficult for them to attract people into their practices. Let's make it more difficult to make those practices viable. Some of those practices in some of the most remote parts of our state are doing it really, really tough.

I have had great feedback down the Gold Coast from some of the local practices. Southport Doctors and Her Medical at Australia Fair are practices that provide services to everyday Queenslanders who need access to a GP. They do not want to line up at a hospital, but if these GPs are not there doing the work then that is where more and more of these patients would end up. People such as the team at the Myhealth medical centre and Gold Coast After Hours Doctors have been toiling away for probably decades providing 24-hour medical support as a GP practice. We want to thank them, so let's slug them with another tax. Labor is so good at kicking them when they are down.

These changes are important. I certainly have not covered every aspect of the legislation that I would like to. I do want to commend the bill to the House. I do want to re-state that this bill is about helping Queenslanders build a better future and delivering better healthcare services. It is a very serious and sincere attempt at restoring home ownership in Queensland.