




Speech By  
**Hon. Samuel O'Connor**  
**MEMBER FOR BONNEY**

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Record of Proceedings, 22 May 2025

## MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

### Homelessness Ministerial Advisory Council

 **Hon. ST O'CONNOR** (Bonney—LNP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works and Minister for Youth) (10.07 am): Homelessness is one of the most complex and urgent challenges facing our state—one that requires a response centred on compassion and driven by practical outcomes. Labor's legacy is a social housing waitlist soaring to almost 50,000 people. Our government is working hard to change that by delivering supply, supply, supply.

While Labor delivered an average of just 509 social homes per year over the past decade, the Crisafulli government is taking a new approach—working with community housing providers, empowering them to deliver over 2,000 social and affordable homes per year. We know addressing homelessness is far more complex than just providing a safe place to stay. That is why we have created the Homelessness Ministerial Advisory Council—for the first time a cross-sector body bringing together leading voices from homelessness services, domestic and family violence services, disability services, corrections and local government.

This is not just another pointless talkfest—something the former government loved to do. Time and time again we saw when the cameras went away the activity stopped. This council is a practical, outcomes driven body with a clear mission: to reduce and prevent homelessness in Queensland. I was proud to host our first meeting last week, alongside our assistant housing minister, the member for Redlands. The council will meet every two months, providing a regular direct line of communication to senior government leaders including, importantly, in housing and health. Pam Barker, CEO of the Brisbane Youth Service, said—

It's not just another conversation. We've been having these conversations for many years, and we as a sector, know how to solve the problem, but it's around that collective action, because we can do it together. So I'm really excited to see what this group can achieve.

One of the strongest takeaways from our first meeting was the clear consensus on the need for place-based approaches. Local problems need local solutions designed with those on the ground. That is why we are establishing a South-East Queensland local government working group as a formal subcommittee of the council. This group will bring together local councils and government agencies from across South-East Queensland to create connections, identify systemic barriers and co-design solutions. The goal is better integration and coordination not just in theory, but in practice.

We are also establishing a supportive housing working group under the advisory council to provide practical advice on how we can scale what works, integrate health and housing supports more effectively and make supportive housing a core part of our housing system as part of our target to deliver 53,500 social and community homes by 2044. Last week, Roby Curtis from Emmanuel City Mission said—

From 16 plus years of supporting people who are sleeping rough, sleeping on, off the streets throughout the south part of the city ... the supportive approach is absolutely mandatory.

Queensland's Mental Health Commissioner Ivan Frkovic observed last week—

I think this is one of the first times that I've come to a meeting where it was more about action, rather than talking about the problem. And what I liked particularly from my perspective on people with mental health problems and drug and alcohol problems who are homeless, was a strong focus on supportive housing. That is the missing piece, and that is one of the major answers to our homelessness problems currently in Brisbane.

This government is committed to listening, acting and working with people and organisations that are doing the hard work on the ground every day. Evidence based and coordinated—that is how we will make lasting change, and that is exactly what the Homelessness Ministerial Advisory Council has been set up to deliver.