



Speech By
Hon. Samuel O'Connor

MEMBER FOR BONNEY

Record of Proceedings, 16 October 2025

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Social Housing

 **Hon. ST O'CONNOR** (Bonney—LNP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works and Minister for Youth) (10.01 am): Queenslanders expect our state's public housing system to be fair, safe and focused on helping those who need it most. For too long that was not the case. Under the former Labor government, nearly half of all public housing tenants had not had a rent or eligibility check for more than five years. That meant 45 per cent of tenants had no checks done to see if they were still eligible or whether they were even paying the right amount of rent. Labor let high-income earners and even property owners live in taxpayer-funded housing while tens of thousands of vulnerable Queenslanders languished on the social housing waitlist.

That is why on 1 July the Crisafulli government reinstated annual rent and ongoing eligibility reviews as part of our strengthened tenancy management approach. This is about restoring fairness and integrity to the system, ensuring as many of our existing public housing properties as possible are there for our most vulnerable Queenslanders while we get on with the job of building record numbers of new social and community homes. Already more than 4,500 rent reviews have been initiated, with over 3,400 completed by our hardworking housing officers.

Today I can update the House that we have now identified 194 households as high-income earners living in social housing. Shockingly, we have now also found 20 public housing tenants who owned property. At the same time, we have also found that for years around one in four tenants were being overcharged on their rent by Labor. The Crisafulli government has acted to reduce these tenants' rent so they only pay what they should have always been paying. Some have seen reductions of up to \$70 a week. For anyone found not to be paying 25 per cent of their income in rent, we have capped any rent increases at \$15 per week throughout the entire year to protect these low-income households from any impacts while we restore fairness to the system.

Fairness goes both ways. It means helping those who are doing it tough and holding accountable those who abuse the privilege of public housing and make life hell for their neighbours and communities. That is why we have also implemented our new antisocial behaviour policy. Housing officers are now empowered to act where tenants repeatedly damage property, threaten their neighbours, attack or abuse our public servants or engage in illegal activity. In just the first few months of this policy being in place, 2,357 incidents have been actioned under our new framework, including 55 tenancies where notices to leave have been issued for dangerous or repeated antisocial behaviour. For too long the overwhelming majority of our tenants who do the right thing have told us they felt unsafe in their own homes and communities. They were forced to endure violence, threats or drug activity. Under our government, the time of turning a blind eye is over. This policy is about protecting our many outstanding tenants, supporting safe communities and rebuilding respect for public housing as a foundation for opportunity, not a place of fear.

These reforms are strongly supported by our frontline housing officers who for years did not have the tools they needed to do their jobs properly and take action where it needed to be taken. Now they have a system to properly manage tenancies, and that is exactly what they are doing. We are ensuring that public housing remains a safety net, not a shield for bad behaviour. After a decade of decline under Labor, in just 12 months the Crisafulli government is restoring fairness, safety and accountability to Queensland's public housing system while we deliver new homes in every corner of our state.