



Speech By
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MEMBER FOR NOOSA

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PRIVATE MEMBER STATEMENT

Housing

 **Ms BOLTON** (Noosa—Ind) (2.54 pm): When we look at some of the biggest issues we now face, we can trace the contributors to things including current societal norms. For example, in our parents' era, intergenerational living was essential and provided care for grandchildren and grandparents, a bunk bed for relatives who had fallen on hard times and sustainable living, with electricity, food, fuel and water shared. Isolation and loneliness were unknown, whether as a teenager or an elder, and the reliance on government services including the ambulance was much less as family members provided those. There was always someone in the house to help, whether to care physically or emotionally, clean out a gutter or share a cuppa.

That is not so much the case now, with expectations set by marketing campaigns and vested interests promoting greater consumption, independence, privacy and retiring to dream locations, often states away from grown children and grandchildren. Our reliance on government has increased as a result, including to remain alone in our own family-size homes in our twilight years. Data from the RBA and ABS show the average household size of 2.8 in the 1980s is now 2.5, which, if regained, could see an extra 1.2 million houses available to the market. That is food for thought.

With a growing number of Queenslanders sleeping in cars, our societal norm of having our own space is creating a rejection of offered shared accommodation. How do we address the ramifications of our norms in a sustainable and caring way? Intergenerational learning and living is one way. This connects the two ends of the age spectrum through human centred design and the sharing of spaces, education, skills, volunteerism and existing services and buildings in a village style atmosphere, with the community designing the missing parts.

This is what we have been doing with QUT, Deakin University, the Australian Catholic University and Mark Trotter Architects, with beautiful Pomona the site. Currently, outcomes from a workshop are being compiled to take to our community. That resulted from input from seniors living and education organisations, community development teams, local government planners, urban designers and a host more. Between that and the Ted Noffs project at the former House with No Steps site and transitional accommodation sites identified, we accept it is up to us to resolve the impacts of our societal norms.

When I come knocking on the government's door for assistance, whether financial or policy, I ask them to look at what can be and not what cannot be done due to policy settings geared to increased consumption, not decreased consumption, as part of creating our sustainable, caring and loving future.