



RACHEL NOLAN MP

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NOLAN WELCOMES LABOR'S PUBLIC HOUSING POLICY ANNOUNCEMENT

Member for Ipswich Rachel Nolan today warmly welcomed Federal Labor Leader Mark Latham's announcement that a federal Labor Government would spend \$400 million of new money on public housing in its first three year term.

Launching the Department of Housing Garden Awards at the public housing units in Cole Street, Booval, Ms Nolan said renewed investment in public housing was vital to prevent homelessness in Australia and to give poor families a chance to live in decent, secure housing.

Under the Howard Government the average house price in Australia has gone from six years of average annual earnings to nine years.

"That means it's now harder for ordinary people to afford to buy than it was before," Ms Nolan said.

"We see the signs of that in Ipswich with house prices and rents skyrocketing.

"The Howard Government has done nothing but make the situation even more desperate for people on low incomes. They have axed funding to public housing, put money into rent assistance which does nothing to create housing supply and fuelled the housing price boom with policies like the non means-tested \$7,000 first home buyers' grant which even subsidises rich people to buy homes.

"In recent weeks they have ignored a major Productivity Commission report into housing affordability because they simply don't have the political guts to make hard decisions which will help Australians afford to buy a home.

"If the Howard Government stays in office and continues to do nothing about public housing and housing affordability, it will not be long before we start to see more homelessness and social dislocation in Ipswich.

"This will play itself out as kids enrolling to start school having never had a decent stable home and as people of all ages needing support like emergency food relief because once they've paid the rent, they can't afford to feed themselves.

"The commitment that federal Labor have announced to public housing is absolutely vital because it will create housing security for thousands of people in Ipswich and communities like it."