



**Andrew  
CRIPPS MP**  
Member for Hinchinbrook



for a new Queensland

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**For immediate release**

## **Minister ignores disability housing problems**

The Bligh Labor Government is refusing to acknowledge the disability sector's concerns about housing, claiming that forced co-tenancies did not exist.

LNP Shadow Disability Services Minister, Andrew Cripps, said forced co-tenancies, where people with disabilities are made to share housing with other people regardless of varying needs and non-matched personalities, were a source of great concern and frustration for disability groups, families and people with disabilities.

"I was disappointed to hear the Minister Anastacia Palaszczuk deny that forced co-tenancies existed, despite the fact that the negative impact on people who were forced into unsuitable share house arrangements is significant," said Mr Cripps.

"Everyone knows funding and resources are a problem, but putting your head in the sand is not addressing the issue, it's walking away from the issue. It is very difficult for families who have to watch as their son, daughter, brother or sister, endure months at a time of intense stress because of forced co-tenancies" he said.

Mr Cripps said for the Minister to state there is no such thing as a forced co-tenancy in Queensland was proof the Bligh Government won't face up to the hard questions.

"Minister Palaszczuk only likes to be associated with the good news stories in the disabilities portfolio. After denying forced co-tenancies existed, the Minister passed the buck on to DSQ staff to fix the problem by matching clients more appropriately.

"It's just like Paul Lucas denying responsibility for the health payroll debacle. The impact of forced co-tenancy can be devastating on a person with a disability, and can in the worst cases impact on their ability to interact socially and emotionally."

Mr Cripps said the Community Safeguards Coalition, a network of disability advocacy agencies, had been campaigning for three years against Queenslanders with disabilities being forced into these facilities regardless of individual needs, personal choices and preferences.

"The worst cases can involve a person being informed or threatened that government-funded care or support services won't be administered unless they have a 'tenant' with a disability move into their home to share services" said Mr Cripps.

"The Minister has to realise that the long term capital underspending in the disability services budget is hurting a lot of people. Her refusal to acknowledge the problem is making that hurt a lot worse" he said.

**-ENDS-**

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