



**Queensland  
Government**

**Hon. Karen Struthers MP**  
Member for Algeester

**Minister for Community Services,  
Housing and Minister for Women**

24 January 2012

### **Groundbreaking program offers new start for unemployed**

An innovative new program will help unemployed Ipswich locals' find affordable housing and a job, giving them the tools to gain financial independence.

Housing Minister Karen Struthers today joined Ipswich MP Rachel Nolan, Ipswich West MP Wayne Wendt and Bundamba MP Jo-Ann Miller to announce the groundbreaking pilot *Getting Ahead – Getting Involved Housing and Employment* program.

Ms Nolan said MAXNetwork Pty Ltd would receive \$1.84 million over four years from the Queensland Government to run the pilot to help people stand on their own feet

"The pilot involves time-limited private rental housing and case management to help those in housing need while they undertake training and employment," Ms Nolan said.

"This is a new and smarter way of helping struggling Ipswich locals who want the opportunity to receive new training and skills, but struggle financially to commit to a new path."

Mr Wendt said MAXNetwork Pty Ltd would work one-on-one with participants to ensure they have the support they need to take advantage of new opportunities.

"They will need to have a strong desire to take on training and take a step towards financial independence," Mr Wendt said.

"In return they get help finding training; work and affordable and secure housing, making it easier meet the costs of transport and child care."

Mrs Miller welcomed the pilot as a step forward in supporting local unemployed locals.

"It has been planned in consultation with Centrelink and other government agencies such as the Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation and the Department of Education and Training," Mrs Miller said.

Ms Struthers said the Bligh Government is determined to create more jobs and ensure all Queenslanders have a bright future.

"This pilot program forms part of the Queensland Government's Towards Q2 Jobless Households target, reducing the number of jobless households in Queensland and breaking the cycle of disadvantage."

More information about the Housing and Employment Program pilot is available at <http://www.communities.qld.gov.au/housing/>

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