



Minister for Communities and Housing
Minister for Digital Economy
Minister for the Arts

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16 DEC 2021

Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
TableOffice@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to Petition No. 3616-21 titled 'Crisis accommodation for the homeless' that was tabled on 16 November 2021 in the Legislative Assembly. I note the views of the petitioners and appreciate their interest in the matter.

In response to the unprecedented housing market conditions we are seeing statewide, the Palaszczuk Government launched the *Queensland Housing and Homelessness Action Plan 2021–2025* (Action Plan). Through this Action Plan, the Government is investing \$2.9 billion, including the establishment of a \$1 billion Housing Investment Fund, to help more vulnerable Queenslanders into homes quicker. The Government will deliver 7,400 new social and affordable housing commencements over the next four years and provide more support for women and families experiencing or at risk of homelessness. Through the Help to Home initiative, the Department of Communities, Housing and Digital Economy will be headleasing properties to ensure that we can respond quickly in areas of high demand and provide homes for people at risk of homelessness.

Underpinning this Action Plan is the Queensland Housing Investment Growth Initiative (QHIGI) which will accelerate and build on the existing new social housing targets under the *Queensland Housing Strategy 2017–2027* through a commitment of \$1.9 billion over four years. This includes QuickStarts Queensland, a new whole of Queensland capital program to be delivered as a partnership between the Government, registered community housing providers and community organisations and commits to commence the delivery of new social housing homes across Queensland. QHIGI provides the opportunity to harness the use of surplus government land and partnerships with the housing sector and other groups to expand investments and enable strategic, place-based responses to housing need.

All vacant properties owned by state government agencies considered to be surplus to agency requirements, or underperforming are listed on the Government Land Register which enables state agencies to review and acquire at market value if they are suitable for their portfolio requirements. The department regularly reviews this register to identify sites suitable for service delivery or for redevelopment as social housing and works closely with other departments and government agencies when opportunities arise.

Not all surplus properties on the Government Land Register are suitable for use or redevelopment for social housing outcomes. The department also explores the private market regularly to identify and secure land in targeted locations across the state that present potential opportunities for the construction of social housing under its Capital Works programs.

The Government recognises that ending homelessness requires more than just housing. It requires affordable and stable housing, combined with appropriate supports to help people to stay in their homes and achieve improved whole-of-life outcomes.

The Palaszczuk Government takes a person-centred approach to providing housing support, including providing over 205,000 forms of housing assistance in 2020-21, including emergency housing, social housing and private market assistance.

Under the Action Plan, the Government is committing \$94.9 million over four years to support the housing and homelessness service system and deliver better outcomes for Queenslanders. This includes:

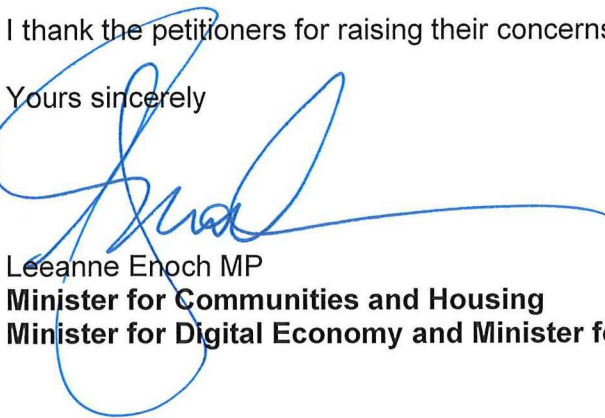
- \$20 million over four years to provide domestic and family violence housing assistance and support
- \$20 million over four years for homelessness initiatives including through headleases and crisis housing and supports
- \$54.9 million over four years to fund essential housing and homelessness services launched through under the *Queensland Housing Strategy 2017–2027*.

The department provides a range of responses to provide crisis accommodation for people experiencing homelessness including through the funding of Specialist Homelessness Services under the Homelessness and Crisis Accommodation Programs. Specialist Homelessness Services are funded across the state to deliver temporary supported accommodation, on an immediate basis, for people experiencing homelessness. Homelessness funding is used to deliver case management support and crisis accommodation funding provides the properties used to accommodate people seeking assistance.

For more details on the Action Plan or QHIGI, I encourage petitioners to review the information available online at www.chde.qld.gov.au/about/strategy/housing.

I thank the petitioners for raising their concerns and I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely



Leeanne Enoch MP
Minister for Communities and Housing
Minister for Digital Economy and Minister for the Arts