

Tabled by Anastacia Palaszczuk MP
at TH6C estimates Hearing
on 18 Oct 12
Cmrgukin



Hon Dr Bruce Flegg MP
Member for Moggill



Queensland
Government

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COM 06505-2012

Minister for
Housing and Public Works

21 JUN 2012

Mr C W Pitt MP
Manager of Opposition Business, Shadow Minister for Treasury and Trade, Energy and Water
Supply, Main Roads, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Sport and Recreation
Member for Mulgrave
PO Box 314
GORDONVALE QLD 4865

Dear Mr Pitt

As you would be aware from a number of public statements I have made, Labor left
Queensland's social housing funding in a parlous state.

Traditionally, rent collections funded the maintenance and administration of public housing
with the excess being used to fund new homes.

Through what can only be defined as incompetence, Labor's public housing legacy has
delivered a portfolio bereft of funding, which combined with a tenancy mix dominated by
Centrelink dependents means that for the first time in its history, public housing will operate
at a loss, in the 2012 financial year.

The projected deficit for 2012-13, based on the previous Government's figures, soars to a
completely unsustainable situation.

So, for the first time, there is not \$1 left to put towards the purchase of a public housing unit!

At the same time, demand for public housing is increasing with 31,000 families having
submitted an application, 10,000 of which are technically homeless.

The priority of this Government is to restore sustainability to public housing and greatly
improve the efficiency of its management to ensure that we house as many needy and
homeless Queensland families as is absolutely possible.

The Tenant Participation program was established in 1991, with 10 regional tenant groups
and 47 local tenant groups currently in operation. While the program delivered some
excellent outcomes over the years – for both tenants and their communities – it is difficult to
justify ongoing funding of \$350,000, plus front-line staff resources to this program while
there are significant levels of unmet housing need.

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For this reason, I have decided not to fund the Tenant Participation Program beyond this financial year, which also means the 2012 Garden Awards will not be held. It is anticipated that this decision will be met with resistance from individual tenants and groups.

I hope that the relationships formed and activities undertaken by tenant groups and individual tenants can continue through the goodwill and continuing efforts of those involved. However, it will need to occur on a voluntary basis without funding from the Department of Housing and Public Works.

I have included a fact sheet providing some key information about the program and the rationale for ceasing the funding for you to use when responding to any concerns from your constituents.

I trust this information is of assistance to you. If I can help with other matters within my portfolio, please do not hesitate to contact my office on telephone 07 3237 1832.

Yours sincerely



Dr Bruce Flegg MP
Minister for Housing and Public Works

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