

**Question on Notice  
No. 1804  
Asked on 1 November 2007**

MS STRUTHERS asked the Minister for Public Works, Housing and Information and Communication Technology (MR SCHWARTEN)—

**QUESTION:**

With reference to the Commonwealth/State housing agreement –  
Has the Federal Government offered additional funding to the States/Territories for public and social housing to better respond to the widely reported housing affordability concerns?

**ANSWER:**

On the contrary, the real value of funding provided by the Howard Government through the CSHA has declined by 30% over the past decade. While the 2003 Agreement introduced indexation for the first time, the so-called efficiency dividend which reduced funding by 1% for each year of the Agreement has meant that the net impact of the indexation is less than CPI, and considerably less than the growth in costs. The net result is that Queensland alone has been short-changed more than \$400 million under the agreement.

The Queensland Government has invested significantly in social housing over the life of the 2003 agreement, including \$345 million in State matching funding and a further \$616 million over the life of the CSHA, bringing the State contribution to about \$961 million.

Since 1998 there have been successive increases in State budget allocations to respond to the shortfall in funding from the Australian Government. The State Government brought down another record housing assistance budget of \$719 million in 2007–08, and since coming to office the State Government has more than doubled its budget for housing assistance from around \$300 million in 1998. Over the next five years, the State Government will invest an additional \$500 million from the Queensland Future Growth Fund to accelerate the expansion of Queensland's social housing asset base.

Not content with systematically reducing the amount of funding available to State and Territory Governments for the provision of social housing, the former Howard Government was willing to jeopardise the entire social housing system and the security of some of the community's most disadvantaged households, for short-term gains.

I have confidence that new Rudd Labor Government will work with State and Territory Governments to tackle the housing crisis created by the former Coalition Government.