

## Question on Notice

No. 1469

Asked on Thursday 8 October 2009

**MRS KEECH** ASKED THE MINISTER FOR COMMUNITY SERVICES AND HOUSING AND MINISTER FOR WOMEN (MS STRUTHERS)—

Will the Minister advise what services are available to the people in the Albert Electorate who are at the risk of homelessness?

**ANSWER:**

The Queensland Government is working with the Australian Government under a new Federal financial framework that will expand the supply of housing and homelessness services in Queensland.

New funding totalling \$284.6 million will be invested in reforms over five years from 2008–13. This funding will provide a range of new initiatives across the State, which will build on and enhance the existing range of homelessness services.

A number of these new initiatives will be located in the South East Region of the Department of Communities which incorporates the Albert electorate.

Funding for these new initiatives is in addition to the funding through the Queensland Government and the Australian Government of approximately \$79 million already allocated on an annual basis to reduce homelessness in Queensland.

The department provides over \$8.5 million per annum to 26 homelessness services in the South East Region which incorporates the Albert electorate. These services include:

- Supporting Those at Risk of Homelessness service which is funded \$509,215 per annum and provides an outreach support program to individuals and families at risk of homelessness
- a range of crisis accommodation services which provides accommodation and support for adults, families and young people
- transitional accommodation services to support people moving from crisis accommodation into independent living arrangements
- domestic violence refuges.

There are also a number of support services funded by the department which assist vulnerable people. These include domestic violence services, family support services, individual support services, prevention and early intervention services, neighbourhood centres and services for young people and seniors.

The department operates a Housing and Homelessness Office at Robina which provides a range of services to clients. Services available include the provision of social housing, assistance for clients to access the private rental market through the Bond Loan and Rental Grant program.

In addition, Homeless Persons Information Queensland provides telephone information, advice and referral service for people at risk of homelessness or experiencing homelessness and seeking assistance. The phone number of this Statewide service is 1800 474 753. The department also provides assistance through the crisis care hotline 1800 177 135 (toll free).

The response to the risk of homelessness depends upon the cause—the department funds various community agencies that do excellent work to assist vulnerable people, including people who are experiencing domestic violence, young people, single adults and families. A variety of specialist homelessness services are available to people at risk of homelessness within the Gold Coast and neighbouring Logan communities.

People in the Albert electorate can register for social housing assistance at the Logan Housing Services Office or contact any of the nine crisis accommodation providers in the area.

The department and providers are working together to ensure that homelessness services will not be disrupted by the transfer of Interlink Housing and Support Association's housing services to Youth and Family Service (Logan City).

On 30 October 2009, Interlink's services ceased and re-opened as Youth and Family Service on 31 October 2009. The department has a dedicated project team to assist Interlink during the transfer of services.

All Interlink tenants have been advised about this change and this included receiving advice through information sessions held on 14 and 15 October 2009.