

Question on Notice

No. 1639

Asked on Thursday 29 October 2009

MR PITT ASKED THE MINISTER FOR COMMUNITY SERVICES AND HOUSING AND MINISTER FOR WOMEN (MS STRUTHERS)—

What is the government doing to support people in need of crisis accommodation and social housing in the Innisfail area?

ANSWER:

In Queensland, new funding of \$284.6 million will be invested over five years to 2013 through the National Partnership Agreement on Homelessness. This funding will provide a range of new initiatives across the State including significant new investment for Far North Queensland.

At a cost of \$1.985 million, in 2009–10 the Queensland Government has funded the purchase of a total of five units of accommodation and a land development site in Edmonton, Gordonvale, Bentley Park and White Rock.

Additionally, the Department of Communities has:

- completed construction of three units of accommodation in Gordonvale (total approved budget of \$731,264);
- plans to complete construction of a further 11 units of accommodation in Edmonton, Gordonvale and Mount Sheridan (total approved budget of \$2.893 million); and
- plans to commence construction of one unit of accommodation in Bentley Park (approved budget of \$375,628).

In Innisfail, the Queensland Government has allocated \$432,966 in defined-term triennial funding to two specialist homelessness services to deliver crisis accommodation services:

- Innisfail Youth and Family Care Domestic Violence Support Service providing crisis accommodation for women and children escaping domestic and family violence; and
- Innisfail Youth and Family Care Service providing a crisis accommodation service for young people.

In the Mulgrave electorate, there are 1,284 social housing dwellings providing long term, medium term and crisis accommodation. Of these, 745 are government-managed and 539 managed by non-government organisations.

In Innisfail there are 85 social housing dwellings, with six government-managed and 79 managed by non-government organisations.

People in Innisfail needing assistance can register for social housing with the department's Far North Queensland Housing Services Office in Cairns or make direct contact with crisis accommodation providers in the area. People needing crisis assistance can call the department's crisis care hotline on 1800 177 135 (toll free), or for information on homelessness services, the Homeless Persons Information Queensland 24-hour hotline on 1800 474 753.

To assist people who are having difficulty finding affordable private rental accommodation, the department will also be rolling out RentConnect services in North Queensland. RentConnect aims to address the multiple causes of homelessness, from housing affordability stress to social disadvantage. It will provide assistance to people who, with some help, can get back in and sustain private accommodation.