

Question on Notice

No. 1745

Asked on Wednesday 11 November 2009

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

Will the Minister outline how the Bligh Government is giving certainty to 25,000 pensioners by making sure their pension increase is not lost in increased rent?

ANSWER:

Through the Council of the Australian Federation, State and Territory governments agreed to an initial 12-month moratorium quarantining social housing rents from the recent \$30 per week pension increase.

On 6 November 2009, the Premier, in recognition that pensioners were doing it tough, decided to extend the 12-month moratorium indefinitely. This gives around 25,000 Queensland pensioners living in social housing certainty that none of the recent pension increase will be lost in rent.

Social housing tenants receive a range of benefits that pensioners who reside in the private rental market are unlikely to receive, including responsive tenancy management, affordable rents, quality maintenance and periodic dwelling upgrades, and security of tenure for the duration of housing need.

The decision taken by the Queensland Government to extend the moratorium indefinitely provides an additional benefit to pensioners living in social housing in recognition of the rising costs of living.