

Question on Notice

No. 595

Asked on 25 March 2010

MRS ATTWOOD asked the Minister for Community Services and Housing and Minister for Women (MS STRUTHERS)—

QUESTION

Will the Minister advise how the Commonwealth Government is working with the State in relation to providing more affordable housing for Queenslanders?

ANSWER

The Queensland Government is aware of the difficulties Queenslanders face in accessing affordable housing and is working with the Commonwealth Government to give this matter urgent attention.

Queensland is a signatory to the National Affordable Housing Agreement, through which \$1.1 billion is allocated to Queensland by the Commonwealth over a five year period.

The Queensland Government, through the Department of Communities, has actively collaborated with the Commonwealth Government through the National Rental Affordability Scheme, the Nation Building Economic Stimulus Plan—Social Housing Initiative, the Homelessness National Partnership Agreement, the Remote Indigenous Housing National Partnership Agreement and the Social Housing National Partnership Agreement.

- The National Rental Affordability Scheme will increase the supply of affordable rental properties (available at 80 per cent of the market rent) for families across Queensland. Under this scheme, 2,241 properties have already been approved for Queensland with 209 of these already available for Queenslanders to rent.
- The Nation Building Economic Stimulus Plan—Social Housing Initiative will deliver approximately 4,000 new social housing dwellings to Queensland by June 2012. There are 2,010 new social housing dwellings already under construction across Queensland, with the program of work expected to support over 7,500 jobs to 2013.
- The National Partnership Agreement on Homelessness will provide \$284 million in Commonwealth and State funds over five years to tackle homelessness and build a better homelessness service system in Queensland.
- The National Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Housing will provide over \$1.1 billion in Commonwealth Government funding to Queensland over the life of the ten year agreement to provide for the delivery of 1,141 new dwellings and 1,216 upgrades to existing housing in remote Indigenous communities. Funding also provides employment opportunities for local residents in those communities.
- The Social Housing National Partnership Agreement will provide \$80 million in Commonwealth Government funding over two years to deliver an additional 250 social housing dwellings.

In addition to the partnerships with the Commonwealth, the Queensland Government has provided additional funding, including that flowing from the Queensland Future Growth Fund, to increase the supply of social housing. Since 1 July 2007, this has seen—

- the construction of 1,348 dwellings with an approved total budget of \$352.205 million
- construction to commence on 329 dwellings that are yet to be completed with an approved total budget of \$78.681 million
- In 2009–10, construction to be planned for a further 185 dwellings for an estimated total budget of \$32.827 million.