

**Question on Notice
No. 180
Asked on 18 March 2014**

MR SYMES asked the Minister for Housing and Public Works (MR MANDER)-

QUESTION:

With refererence to public housing and homelessness –

- (1) Has there been a reduction in waiting lists for public housing in the Lytton Electorate since 2012?
- (2) What initiatives has the Newman Government implemented to reduce homelessness throughout Queensland since the 2012 election?

ANSWER:

- (1) As at 31 March 2012, there were 275 applications for long term social housing in the Lytton Electorate. As at 28 February 2014, there were 118 applications for long term social housing in the Lytton Electorate. This is a reduction of 157 or 57%.
- (2) Key reforms are being delivered through the *Homelessness-to-Housing Strategy 2020*, launched in June 2013. The strategy includes two goals to be met by 2020:
 - to halve the rate of homelessness in Queensland
 - to provide real and sustainable pathways out of homelessness and develop independence rather than ongoing dependence on high-cost, government-funded crisis accommodation services.

This strategy outlines a package of ‘bricks and mortar’ initiatives and service reforms that will enable the Queensland Government to deliver revitalised, streamlined and outcomes-focussed services that can achieve these goals and help the most vulnerable people in our community get their lives back on track.

One of the key priorities is additional investment in areas where there is high need. Construction of a 20 bed facility in Redcliffe will commence in the near future with expected completion in late 2014. 40 bed supported accommodation facilities in Cairns and Townsville will also be delivered. These facilities will not only provide a roof over people’s heads, but onsite support as well to help people address underlying causes of their homelessness.

The Queensland Government is also expanding the National Partnership Agreement on Homelessness (NPAH) initiatives that have been shown to be working to reduce homelessness. These include:

- provision of additional dwellings to expand the existing Street to Home program, linking accommodation and support for people who are sleeping rough this includes the development of facilities in Redcliffe, Cairns and Townsville
- families and women and children escaping domestic and family violence will benefit from increased temporary supported accommodation to offer them stability and support
- provision of additional dwellings for young people leaving the youth detention and/or child protections systems.

The *Homelessness-to-Housing Strategy 2020* and the *Housing 2020 Strategy* commits the Queensland Government to developing regional plans to address local housing priorities and to achieve better engagement with the non-government sector. Regional Housing Plans will draw attention to the challenges and opportunities within the housing market in particular locations and provide information on the government's intentions to reform the way housing and homelessness assistance is provided.

Consideration is also being given to how best to overhaul intake, assessment and case planning across housing and homelessness assistance to ensure families and individuals receive the type and level of response they need. A 'triage' approach, where intake and assessment will prioritise those most in need, will streamline access to housing and support services.

On 18 March 2014, the *Home for Good Campaign* was launched. This campaign supports the partnership between the Queensland Government and the *500 Lives 500 Homes* project, which is aimed at breaking the cycle of homelessness for some of Brisbane's most vulnerable people.

From 24 March 2014 to 4 April 2014, volunteers and partnering agencies completed the largest ever grass roots assessment of Brisbane's homeless families, young people and adults.

The information gathered during this period will give local providers a clear understanding of every surveyed person's health, housing and support needs and the information required to help people get back on their feet and find safe, longer-term accommodation. Once the effectiveness of the Brisbane campaign is gauged, consideration will be given to the benefits of rolling out a similar process across other areas of the state.