

Question on Notice
No. 696
Asked on Friday 17 July 2015

MR RYAN ASKED THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING AND PUBLIC WORKS AND MINISTER FOR SCIENCE AND INNOVATION (HON L ENOCH) —

Will the Minister outline how the 2015 Queensland State Budget will help non-government organisations reduce homelessness, with particular reference to the Morayfield Electorate?

ANSWER

- The Queensland and Australian Governments work in partnership to deliver specialist homelessness services for people who are homeless, or who are at imminent risk of homelessness, or who are housed and at risk of becoming homeless. The purpose of homelessness services is to assist homeless people to:
 - obtain housing
 - maintain their housing
 - maximise their capacity to be independent, self-reliant and connected to appropriate social and community support.
- The National Partnership Agreement on Homelessness 2015–17 and the National Affordable Housing Agreement funds are pooled to fund a range of initiatives aimed at reducing homelessness across Queensland.
- In 2014–15, the department allocated funding of \$106 million to 136 non-government organisations in Queensland, which provided 215 specialist homelessness services. Included in this funding were two specialist homelessness services in the Morayfield electorate which were allocated a total of \$891,241.
- The Department of Housing and Public Works (DHPW) is working on continuing funding to homelessness services, which will provide certainty for these non-government organisations that perform critical work in the most difficult of circumstances on a day to day basis.
- As outlined in the 2015–16 Budget, DHPW is currently developing a new Queensland Housing Strategy for housing and homelessness that will reflect the Queensland Government's objectives for the community, including providing responsive and integrated services and safe, secure and affordable housing options for all Queenslanders.
- It is envisaged that the strategy will set the strategic direction for the provision of an integrated housing and homelessness assistance system and measures for addressing housing affordability. This will guide service delivery and provide effective responses to addressing Queenslanders' housing needs for the next 10 years.
- As part of the development of the strategy, there will be meaningful engagement opportunities for the community and representative groups to participate in shaping the strategy later this year, followed by an opportunity to help implement the needed actions.