

**Question on Notice  
No. 1441  
Asked on Tuesday 30 August 2016**

**MR JANETZKI** ASKED THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING AND PUBLIC WORKS (HON M DE BRENNI) —

Will the Minister outline the efforts currently being made by the government to address public housing wait times in the Toowoomba region?

**ANSWER**

Having safe, affordable and appropriate housing is an important foundation for people to participate in socially and economically in their local community. The Palaszczuk Government understands this and is committed to delivering essential services such as public housing through the Department of Housing and Public Works.

The department works with the community to ensure that people have appropriate pathways to better housing. A key responsibility for the department is to manage the demand for public housing in a way that delivers a more equitable and sustainable housing system.

People seeking housing assistance undergo an assessment of their circumstances to identify their immediate and longer-term housing needs. Where appropriate, people are referred to products and services which may assist them to find secure housing in the private market, thereby reducing demand for public housing.

This includes programs that assist Queenslanders who are able to enter, or remain in, the private housing market, such as:

- RentConnect – offers a continuum of assistance, ranging from an information and advisory service, to intensive and ongoing assistance to help people find and sustain private rental housing.
- Bond Loans – help people pay a rental bond for a private rental tenancy.
- Rental Grants – provide two weeks rent to households in crisis to assist with the upfront costs of establishing a private rental tenancy. Clients assisted through this service include women fleeing domestic and family violence, people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, people exiting correctional facilities, child protection services or approved centres.

Within the Toowoomba region, the Toowoomba Housing Service Centre manages 2,136 tenancies, which houses 4,507 people.

In the Toowoomba region from 31 August 2015 to 31 August 2016, 244 new households were assisted into government-managed housing during this period.

At 31 August 2015, there were a total of 425 applicants on the Housing Register for the Toowoomba region, and by 31 August 2016, that number had decreased to 383.

Increasing public housing stock that aligns to the needs of vulnerable Queenslanders is also very important. The department has recently added 25 new homes to the public housing portfolio in the Toowoomba region, with a further 24 new homes to be added to the portfolio in 2015-16.