

**Question on Notice**  
**No. 132**  
**Asked on Thursday, 6 February 2020**

**MR M BERKMAN** ASKED MINISTER FOR HOUSING AND PUBLIC WORKS; MINISTER FOR DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY; MINISTER FOR SPORT (HON M DE BRENNI)

With reference to social housing—

Will the Minister advise (a) how many people have died while on the waiting list since the last state election, (b) how does the government plan to address the housing crisis when their own housing strategy will see the housing waiting list blow out to 100,000 people within 5 years and (c) how many people are currently on the social housing waiting list since the update last year?

**ANSWER**

This Queensland Government is committed to providing vulnerable Queenslanders access to safe, secure and sustainable housing. The *Queensland Housing Strategy 2017-2027* is the government's long-term agenda for improving housing outcomes for Queenslanders.

The Housing Strategy is driving reforms to ensure those most in need are supported by a safety net of targeted early interventions, flexible packages of support, supportive social housing, and genuine wraparound services.

The Department of Housing and Public Works actively manages enquiries for assistance as they present. Often customers have multiple and complex needs which require a strong focus on partnerships, referral pathways, and support across multiple agencies. The introduction of pathway planning has improved the department's ability to match products and services and provide housing assistance to meet customers individual circumstances beyond the outcome of a social housing application.

Queensland does not operate a "social housing waiting list"; instead allocation for the next available social housing in a location is determined based on the individual needs of registrants on the social housing register, rather than any amount of time. There are currently 25,101 applicants registered for long term social housing (as at 31 January 2020).

From 1 February 2019 to 31 January 2020, the Queensland Government supported 36,258 households (including those currently on the social housing register) with housing assistance products and services such as bond loan products, no-interest loans, head-leasing programs, and rental security subsidies.

Over the first five years of the strategy, the department has committed to deliver 2,972 new social housing homes across Queensland. Contracts have been awarded for the commencement of 1577 social housing dwellings.

Through Partnering for Growth, the Department of Housing and Public Works is partnering with the community housing sector to provide new and innovative housing support and a strong community housing sector capable of increasing housing supply. This initiative unlocks \$2 billion for the potential construction of social and affordable housing, with nine projects currently underway across Queensland.

Young people are prioritised for assistance when exiting from out of home care and institutional settings. A range of targeted service offerings are available for women and children experiencing domestic and family violence. The Youth to Work rent policy has supported 1,526 households with young people in employment (as at 31 December 2019).

As part of the Housing Strategy, the Queensland Government is boosting the supply of social and affordable housing under the *Housing Construction Jobs Program*.

The Housing Strategy is also driving improvements in the private housing market, so that it better meets the needs of all Queenslanders. The *Open Doors to Renting Reform* state-wide consultation is guiding the Queensland Government in developing a workable and fair reform package for residential tenancies. The Queensland Government will address issues such as the quality of rental accommodation and protections for people escaping domestic and family violence.