

**Question on Notice
No. 64
Asked on Wednesday, 5 February 2020**

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

With reference to crisis and emergency accommodation in Mackay—

Will the Minister advise (a) the number of crisis and emergency accommodations located in this area, (b) how many of these have spaces currently available and (c) how many crisis and emergency accommodations have been built, or been acquired, for the last three financial years (reported separately by financial year)?

ANSWER

a)

As at 7 February 2020, there are currently 78 places of crisis accommodation in the Mackay Local Government Area (LGA). A place of accommodation may be a house, apartment, bedroom or bed, depending on the service model. The 78 places of accommodation in the Mackay LGA include detached houses, apartments and hostel style shelters.

b)

Vacancies for crisis accommodation can change daily, depending on the needs of individuals. On the night of 7 February 2020, there were seven vacant places of crisis accommodation in the Mackay LGA.

c)

A breakdown of crisis accommodation built or acquired by the Department of Housing and Public Works (DHPW) in the Mackay LGA for the last three financial years is provided below:

Financial year	Number of places built or acquired by DHPW
2017-18	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Nil.
2018-19	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Four additional places of accommodation.
2019-20 (As at 7 February 2020)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• DHPW has approved the Community Housing Information Centre to utilise existing Community Rent Scheme surplus funds to provide an additional 20 places of accommodation for women and children experiencing domestic and family violence. Some of these properties have been sourced with the remaining properties currently being sourced.• One additional place of accommodation.

The \$1.8 billion *Queensland Housing Strategy 2017-2027* is providing pathways to safe, secure and affordable housing by supporting and accelerating a program of new construction and more flexible and responsive housing services. This includes providing better outcomes for people through public housing, private market pathways and specialised housing and homelessness services.

The *Housing Construction Jobs Program* (HCJP) is a key initiative of the Housing Strategy. Through the HCJP, the department is investing \$35.5 million over five years to deliver 60 new social housing homes in the Central Queensland Region, which includes Mackay. To date, contracts have been awarded for the commencement of 34 new social housing properties in the Central Queensland Region. Six of these are located in the Mackay LGA. 14 new homes are targeted to have contracts awarded for commencement in 2020, of which six new dwellings in Mackay are under construction. An additional 10 dwellings in Mackay are in the early stages of design.

The Queensland Government is delivering better integrated service responses to prevent and reduce homelessness in nine priority locations across Queensland, including Mackay. Integrated service responses are being boosted by a \$1.936 million investment. Priority locations will receive funding to employ a Care Coordination Facilitator to strengthen and improve coordination across local housing and homelessness networks. The funding is also facilitating a backbone of support to enhance capability of housing and homelessness service networks state-wide. DHPW is working to better understand need for services in Mackay and the other locations and is developing appropriate place-based responses.