

Question on Notice

No. 10

Asked on 23 February 2021

MR R MOLHOEK ASKED THE MINISTER FOR COMMUNITIES AND HOUSING, MINISTER FOR DIGITAL ECONOMY AND MINISTER FOR THE ARTS (HON L ENOCH)

QUESTION:

Will the Minister advise how the \$32.9m (2020-21 financial year) in funding provided to the Queensland Government, by the Commonwealth of Australia, under the National Housing and Homelessness Agreement, is being allocated to alleviate homelessness, broken down into allocation by (a) program type, (b) region and (c) recipient organisation?

ANSWER:

I thank the Honourable Member for the question.

The National Housing and Homelessness Agreement (NHHA) replaced the National Affordable Housing Agreement (NAHA) and the Transitional National Partnership Agreement on Homelessness (TNPAH) from 1 July 2018.

Under the NHHA, the Queensland Government has a five-year bilateral schedule from 2018-19 to 2022-23, showcasing a selection of actions under the *Queensland Housing Strategy 2017-2027, Partnering for impact to reduce homelessness in Queensland* and Queensland Government planning policies.

The \$32.9 million in Commonwealth funding for the 2020-21 financial year referred to in the NHHA is part of a larger funding pool for homelessness and is not separately allocated to programs.

In the 2019-20 NHHA statement of assurance published online by the Commonwealth Government, the Queensland Government reported total expenditure on homelessness of \$229.8 million comprising \$77.5 million of Commonwealth NHHA funding and \$152.2 million of state funding.

Annually by 31 October, the Queensland Government provides a report on the actions contained within the bilateral schedule for the preceding financial year. These reports are published on the Department of Communities, Housing and Digital Economy website: www.chde.qld.gov.au/news-publications/finance/national-housing-agreements

Disappointingly, the National Housing and Homelessness Agreement Social and Community Services funding from 2021-22 was not identified in the Commonwealth Government Budget in 2020, resulting in a shortfall of around \$11.4 million per year.

In addition, following the expiry of the National Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Housing (NPRH) 2016 - 2018 agreement, the Morrison Government has walked away from its responsibility to fund remote housing for First Nations peoples.

The Commonwealth Government's final payment is insufficient to properly address the need identified in its own independent Remote Housing Review (2017).