

## Question on Notice

No. 538

Asked on Tuesday, 11 May 2021

**MR S ANDREW** ASKED THE MINISTER FOR COMMUNITIES AND HOUSING, MINISTER FOR DIGITAL ECONOMY AND MINISTER FOR THE ARTS (HON L ENOCH)—

With reference to housing commission dwellings been sold by the government, when 47,036 Queenslanders have nowhere safe or secure to live and with more than 20,000 Queenslanders expected to sleep rough tonight—

Will the Minister provide details as to (a) the number of Queensland housing commission properties that have been sold, or leased out to third parties for other uses, over the last 12 months and (b) how many properties have been purchased/constructed for use as social housing over the last 12 months?

ANSWER:

I thank the Honourable Member for the question.

Overall social housing stock has increased since 2015. The Palaszczuk Government has built over 3,000 new social homes since 2015.

The Department of Communities, Housing and Digital Economy's owned social housing portfolio comprises approximately 61,000 dwellings throughout the State. Given the size and characteristics of the portfolio, it is essential that it be managed in a strategic manner in order to meet long-term housing need.

The sale of dwellings is a critical component of the management of the department's portfolio. It ensures the portfolio continues to provide fit for purpose targeted, equitable, sustainable and cost-effective social housing accommodation, and that properties do not become a maintenance and financial burden.

The revenue from the sale of properties is reinvested into more new social housing that is modern, more efficient and has improved accessibility.

In the last 12 months (between 1 May 2020 and 30 April 2021), the Department of Communities, Housing and Digital Economy (DCHDE) sold 210 dwellings including 18 through the Sales to Tenants program.

In the last 12 months (between 1 May 2020 and 30 April 2021), DCHDE acquired 81 properties and has awarded contracts for the commencement of 608 new social housing dwellings, already completing 535 new social housing dwellings under the *Housing Construction Jobs Program*. Under the Works for Tradies program, DCHDE has also awarded contracts for an additional 88 new social housing dwellings.