

Question on Notice

No. 653

Asked on Tuesday, 25 May 2021

DR A MACMAHON ASKED THE MINISTER FOR COMMUNITIES AND HOUSING, MINISTER FOR DIGITAL ECONOMY AND MINISTER FOR THE ARTS (HON L ENOCH)—

QUESTION:

With reference to the ‘Wellbeing’ eligibility criteria for Queensland social housing—

Will the Minister advise (a) does the department use, or intend to use, these criteria to reassess and remove people from the Social Housing Register and (b) how many people have been removed from the Social Housing Register because they do not meet this criteria?

ANSWER:

I thank the Honourable Member for the question.

Eligible applicants for social housing continue to be allocated properties from the housing register, based on their application date, the nature and complexity of their housing needs, and match to an available property. As households’ circumstances change, their housing need is reviewed against all eligibility criteria, and applications can be removed or withdrawn, including by the applicant, where people are no longer eligible or no longer require assistance.

Wellbeing is just one of the criteria used by the Department of Communities, Housing and Digital Economy (the department) when determining eligibility for housing support.

The department takes a person-centred approach and provides Queenslanders with housing assistance across the housing continuum, not only through social housing. Through the Queensland Housing Strategy, the department has reformed its intake and assessment approach to better understand people’s circumstances, with people receiving more targeted solutions to their immediate and longer-term housing needs.

In 2019-20, there were 220,547 forms of housing assistance provided to Queensland households including emergency housing, social housing, and private market assistance. However, unlike the approach taken by the former LNP Government, a person or family can be assisted to secure a home in the private rental market, but also remain on the housing register as a safety net.