

Question on Notice

No. 672

Asked on Wednesday, 26 May 2021

MR T MANDER 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 many applications were ruled ineligible to be placed on the Queensland Social Housing Register for the following calendar years, as determined by the department's register of need (a) 1 January 2015 - 31 December 2015, (b) 1 January 2016 - 31 December 2016, (c) 1 January 2017 - 31 December 2017, (d) 1 January 2018 - 31 December 2018, (e) 1 January 2019 - 31 December 2019, (f) 1 January 2020 - 31 December 2020 and (g) 1 January 2021 - present?

ANSWER:

I thank the Honourable Member for the question.

The Department of Communities, Housing and Digital Economy 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.

Eligibility for social housing is assessed on criteria that includes citizenship and residency status, property ownership, income and assets, and demonstrating a need to move because their current housing does not meet the household's needs and consideration of factors impacting the household's ability to independently access and sustain housing. All Queenslanders can apply and test their eligibility for social housing – no-one is prevented from applying. Similarly, the Palaszczuk Government does not cut households from the register when they do not respond to correspondence within an arbitrary timeframe, as was the practice under the former LNP Government.

In instances where a household is not eligible for social housing, the department provides a number of other products and services such as, private rental market products which are designed to assist people access and stabilise private market tenancies and enable customers to build a positive rental history. Often these products are better placed to meet their immediate needs and assist people with less complex needs to access or sustain private housing.

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, an eligible 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.

The following table provides the number of ineligible social housing applications.

Period	Number of ineligible social housing applications
1 January 2012 – 31 December 2012	1,751
1 January 2013 – 31 December 2013	1,377
1 January 2014 – 31 December 2014	1,312
1 January 2015 – 31 December 2015	1,110
1 January 2016 – 31 December 2016	1,143
1 January 2017 – 31 December 2017	1,315
1 January 2018 – 31 December 2018	1,125
1 January 2019 – 31 December 2019	752
1 January 2020 – 30 December 2020	33