

Question on Notice

No. 700

Asked on Wednesday, 26 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 how many people have been prevented from being included on the Social Housing Register for not meeting ‘wellbeing’ criteria?

ANSWER:

I thank the Honourable Member for the question.

I note the similarities between this question put forward by the Greens Political Party and Question on Notice 672 posed by the Liberal National Party.

The Department of Communities, Housing and Digital Economy (the department) 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 and wellbeing, 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.

Wellbeing is not separate to social housing eligibility criteria which is assessed against several factors that includes core information about households and detailed information about the household circumstances. All Queenslanders can apply and test their eligibility for social housing – no-one is prevented from applying.

The department is unable to provide the information sort as unsuccessful applications are not tracked against individual criteria. 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. Similarly, this Government does not cut households from the register arbitrarily and provides opportunity for an application to be reviewed should a household’s circumstances change.