

Question on Notice

No. 336

Asked on Thursday, 31 March 2022

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

QUESTION:

Will the Minister provide the number of crisis or emergency beds (reported separately) for (a) women and (b) children, by region (i) Mackay, (ii) Townsville and (iii) Cairns?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for the question.

The Department of Communities, Housing and Digital Economy (DCHDE) provides immediate supported accommodation responses for people experiencing homelessness through the funding of Specialist Homelessness Services (SHS) under the Homelessness Program and through the funding of the Crisis Accommodation Program. SHS deliver a range of service types including mobile support, outreach, temporary supported accommodation (TSA) and supported accommodation using a case management support approach. The Crisis Accommodation Program provides the properties used to accommodate people seeking immediate assistance.

The TSA provided by SHS in Queensland is quantified in ‘places’. Depending on the property being used to deliver TSA, a place may be a bed, a bedroom, an apartment or a house. TSA places are delivered to different cohorts of people in need of assistance, for example, some TSA SHS assist only young people, some assist only families (including children) and others assist all cohorts. TSA provided by SHS does not capture children as a separate cohort and is captured under the families cohort.

As at 1 July 2021, DCHDE funded 313 TSA places in 2021-22 under the Homelessness Program in these three centres. In the Mackay Local Government Area (LGA) – 67 - 55 of which support adults, including specifically women, and women and families; Townsville LGA – 126, - 101 of which support adults, including specifically women and women and families, and in Cairns LGA – 120 - 100 of which support adults, including specifically women and women and families. Women and families can, and do, access TSA provided by services that are funded to assist a broader range of cohorts. The TSA SHS places are in addition to the TSA places for people experiencing domestic and family violence funded via the Department of Justice and Attorney-General, including places within domestic and family violence shelters.

Women experiencing domestic, family and sexual violence and their children receive immediate housing assistance from DCHDE.

Through the *Queensland Housing and Homelessness Action Plan 2021–2025* (the Action Plan), we are continuing to build on the products, services and coordinated

responses for customers experiencing domestic, family and sexual violence introduced under the first Action Plan.

The Action Plan delivers \$20 million over four years to provide additional Flexible Assistance Packages of up to \$5000 per household for goods and services needed to maintain or access safe housing, more headleased housing and enhance frontline service responses through support of a Specialist Response Team.

Customers who need immediate assistance are supported to access crisis and alternate accommodation and brokerage assistance to enhance safety. Once they are safe, Housing Service Centres work actively with women to plan and help achieve longer term housing needs and this includes social housing assistance or supporting them to access, secure and sustain a tenancy private rental accommodation through a suite of products and services.

This enhanced response ensures that housing assistance for women experiencing domestic, family and sexual violence is tailored and delivered in coordination with specialist domestic, family violence and sexual violence services and mainstream services to secure safety and longer-term housing needs, with supports in place.

DCHDE is also part of the integrated service response High Risk Teams that operate in eight locations, including Logan/Beenleigh, Mount Isa, Cherbourg, Brisbane, Ipswich, Cairns, Mackay and Caboolture. These teams harness government and community resources to assist those women and children who are most at risk.