Question on Notice

No. 52

Asked on Wednesday, 23 February 2022

MR T MANDER ASKED THE MINISTER FOR COMMUNITIES AND HOUSING, MINISTER FOR DIGITAL ECONOMY AND MINISTER FOR THE ARTS (HON L ENOCH)—

QUESTION:

With reference to 'Helping Hand Headleases' offered by the department—

Will the Minister provide the following (reported separately by Housing Service Centre) for each financial year beginning in 2015-16 (a) the number of households supported (b) total expenditure (c) expenditure associated with repairing damage in properties, (d) the number of leases where the lease was broken early and (e) expenditure associated in paying out leases which have been broken early?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for the question.

Helping Hand Headleases were first offered to clients in the 2018-19 financial year, although headleases have been a feature of the housing services system for many decades.

a) The number of new households assisted between 2018-19 to 31 January 2022:

Housing Service Centre	**2018-2019**	**2019-2020**	**2020-2021**	**2021- 2022 (as at 31 January 2022)**
Buranda	1	0	0	0
Chermside	0	0	2	15
Fortitude Valley	0	0	1	0
Inala	0	0	2	0
Wynnum	0	0	0	0
Bayside	2	16	10	5
Gold Coast	2	19	2	2
Ipswich	2	37	44	8
Logan	1	9	17	7
Toowoomba and South West	1	0	8	2
Bundaberg	0	8	11	8
Emerald	0	1	1	0
Gladstone	0	3	2	3
Maroochydore	0	16	14	8
Maryborough	0	5	23	20
Moreton Bay	0	1	3	1
Rockhampton	0	1	8	5
Cairns	0	0	0	1
Mackay	0	0	0	0
Mt Isa	0	0	0	0

Townsville	26	6	23	9
Thursday Island	0	0	0	0
Queensland	**35**	**122**	**171**	**94**

b) The expenditure for the Helping Hand Headlease program shown in the table below is the amount of rent paid by the department to the property owners under the headleases. The figures in the table below do not take into account the rent paid by the tenants to the department. Total expenditure is as follows and is unable to be broken down by Housing Service Centre:

2018-19	**2019-20**	**2020-21**	**2021-22 (as at 31 January 2022)**
$34,660	$1,206,107	$3,054,714	$2,764,562

c) Expenditure associated with repairing damage in properties leased by the department as part of the Helping Hand Headlease program is unable to be broken down by Housing Service Centre. The expenditure across Queensland for tenant damage and make good at the end of the lease in 2021-22 (as at 31 January 2022) was $140,267. This amount does not reflect reimbursements received from tenants in relation these repairs.

Data is not available for questions d and e. The practice in Housing Service Centres is to work with customers who have indicated an ability or need to vacate a headleased property and identify alternative accommodation if required or end their tenancy with the department. When a headleased property is vacated, the Housing Service Centre will aim to allocate the property to another customer for whom the property is appropriate. Where this has occurred, the Housing Service Centre will either offer the customer a lease for the remainder of the headlease, or where needed, negotiate a longer-term lease with the property owner to suit the requirements of the new customer. This practice is designed to mitigate break lease costs.