

Question on Notice

No. 544

Asked on Wednesday, 25 May 2022

MRS L GERBER ASKED THE MINISTER FOR COMMUNITIES AND HOUSING, MINISTER FOR DIGITAL ECONOMY AND MINISTER FOR THE ARTS (HON L ENOCH)—

QUESTION:

Will the Minister commit to increasing the number of emergency crisis beds for young people on the Gold Coast?

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.

In 2021-22, DCHDE funded 30 TSA places under the Homelessness Program in the Gold Coast Local Government Area (LGA) specifically for young people. This funding is provided under five-year funding agreements from 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2023.

On 20 October 2021, the Gold Coast Youth Foyer officially opened providing 40 one-bedroom self-contained units of supported accommodation for young people aged 16-25 years at risk of homelessness. The \$12.3 million Youth Foyer is a key project delivered under the Government’s *Queensland Housing Strategy 2017-2027* and offers accommodation and 24-hour on-site supervision. The Youth Foyer is a valuable addition to the housing options available to young people on the Gold Coast and provides opportunities to transition from TSA to a longer-term housing with support.

From 2020 – 2021 to 31st March 2022, 85 households commenced new social housing tenancies where the main tenant, joint tenant or spouse was under 25 years of age.

Young people are also assisted through social housing and can access private housing assistance products such as Bond Loans and Rental Grants. In the period 2020 – 2021 to 31 March 2022, 615 forms of rental assistance were provided to households where the applicant was a person under 25 years of age.

The Department continues to evaluate the need for mobile support, outreach, temporary supported accommodation and supported accommodation for young people across the state including the Gold Coast.