

Question on Notice

No. 764

Asked on Tuesday, 16 August 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 the Help to Home program—

Will the Minister advise (a) the total number of properties submitted for consideration and the number approved, (b) the number of submitted properties that have been rejected for inclusion in the program (reported separately by property suburb name) and (c) the number of employees (FTE) allocated to manage the program?

ANSWER:

Headleasing is an established form of housing assistance that provides people on the Queensland Social Housing Register access to safe, stable and affordable housing while a longer-term housing solution is established.

Help to Home is a key Queensland Housing Investment Growth Initiative funded under the *Queensland Housing and Homelessness Action Plan 2021–2025* that provides a great opportunity for Queensland property owners to help provide a home for Queenslanders in need. Through Help to Home, the Queensland Government aims to increase social housing supply with a two-year investment of \$40 million to headlease up to 1000 private market properties.

Help to Home is targeting properties not previously available on the long-term rental market, for example newly-built or existing vacant properties including stand-alone houses, single and multi-unit complexes, and properties new to the private rental market — like short-term or holiday accommodation, or properties that were previously used for commercial purposes. The 2-year headleasing arrangement will provide certainty for property owners, with a guaranteed income for two years, paid three months in advance, and then every quarter subject to the terms of the lease.

The initiative was publicly launched on 24 July 2022 and remains open for Expressions of Interest until 31 October 2022.

As at 13 September 2022, 31 properties have been submitted for assessment. Nineteen properties have been approved in Beenleigh and Keperra and have all been allocated to households on the Social Housing Register. Five properties, located in Berrinba, Riverview, Dicky Beach, McKenzie and Cardwell, were not approved, as they did not meet the criteria set out in the published Expression of Interest documentation. The Department of Communities, Housing and Digital Economy continues to work with property owners who have lodged an expression of interest in the initiative.

The Help to Home program is currently being managed by two existing departmental employees (FTEs).