

Question on Notice

No. 820

Asked on Thursday, 15 June 2023

MR T MANDER ASKED THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING (HON M SCANLON)—

QUESTION:

Will the Minister provide the number of social housing tenancies with a total household annual income of \$80,000 or more (reported separately by Housing Service Centre)?

ANSWER:

The Ongoing Eligibility Policy (the policy) was introduced in 2006 to review tenants ongoing eligibility for social housing and determine their ongoing need for housing assistance. This policy supports the provision of social housing for the duration of need. The policy includes a high-income threshold where combined gross assessable income of the tenant/s and their spouse exceeds \$80 000 per annum.

As part of the Palaszczuk Government's response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Department of Housing (the department) adopted hardship measures which ensured that tenants living in Government owned and managed public housing were not disadvantaged because of changes in their circumstances. Following the cessation of these hardship measures, the department commenced a process in November 2022 to review the circumstances of approximately 5,800 tenants in public housing. The department has identified an additional 239 households as potentially exceeding the threshold of combined tenant and/or spouse gross assessable income of \$80 000 or greater per annum.

The department has also identified 26 households where a transition to alternative accommodation is being progressed. There are 49 households where tenants are eligible for public housing because of factors other than assessable income.

For privacy reasons, the department is unable to release data by Housing Service Centre due to risk of identification.