

Question on Notice

No. 948

Asked on Wednesday, 23 August 2023

MS S BOLTON ASKED THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING (HON M SCANLON)—

QUESTION:

Will the Minister report on what ‘Housing First’ government programs are available to provide housing without eligibility pre-conditions, for homeless people who cannot access mainstream housing programs due to high support needs or behavioural issues?

ANSWER:

The Queensland Government funds non-government organisations to deliver Specialist Homelessness Services (SHS) to assist people experiencing homelessness, or are at risk of homelessness, to obtain housing, maintain their housing, and maximise their capacity to be independent and self-reliant.

As at 1 July 2023, nearly \$185 million (excluding GST) has been committed in Homelessness Program funding in 2023-24 to 90 non-government-organisations to deliver 194 SHS across Queensland.

The Homelessness program guidelines position SHS as a ‘Housing First’ response, which provides Temporary Supported Accommodation and other support services to people experiencing or at risk of homelessness for their duration of need.

Under the Guidelines, specialist homelessness services are required to make services as accessible as possible, and must operate with low or no entry requirements, ensuring that vulnerable Queenslanders have access to services, regardless of their personal circumstances or background.

SHS must be delivered within a case management framework, which places the client’s expressed needs at the centre of all aspects of service delivery. This framework enables specialist homelessness services to accommodate and support clients with high support needs.