

## Question on Notice

No. 353

Asked on Thursday, 21 March 2024

**DR A MACMAHON** ASKED THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING, LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND PLANNING AND MINISTER FOR PUBLIC WORKS (HON M SCANLON)—

### QUESTION:

Will the Minister advise for each financial year since the government was elected in 2015 (a) how much has the Department of Housing paid to private hotels for emergency housing and (b) how much has the Department of Housing spent on subsidising private housing in the course of administering its responsibilities?

### ANSWER:

The Miles Government provides funding to 204 Specialist Homelessness Services (SHS) across Queensland providing temporary supported accommodation, outreach, mobile support and centre-based services to people who are experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness.

#### 1a):

In each year since 2015, the Department of Housing, Local Government, Planning and Public Works has directly brokered hotel accommodation across Queensland as follows:

- 2015-16 - \$0
  - 2016-17 - \$25,600 (GST exclusive)
  - 2017-18 - \$6,527 (GST exclusive)
  - 2018-19 - \$436,307 (GST exclusive)
  - 2019-20 - \$149,011 (GST exclusive)
  - 2020-21 - \$15,199\* (GST exclusive)
  - 2021-22 - \$717,000 (GST exclusive)
  - 2022-23 - \$510,146 (GST exclusive)
  - 2023-24 - \$3.6 million (YTD, GST Exclusive)
- \* Excluding COVID-19 expenditure.

Brokerage funding for SHS can be used to provide one or more of the following:

- short-term temporary accommodation in motels/hotels/apartments
- purchasing of essential items and services
- assistance to transition to alternative housing, and
- purchasing specialist support services, e.g. counselling.

In each year since 2015, the following brokerage funding was allocated to SHS across Queensland. This includes the significant injection of brokerage funding since 2022-23 through the new Immediate Housing Response (IHR) package:

- 2015-16 - \$1.85 million (GST exclusive)
- 2016-17 - \$1.91 million (GST exclusive)
- 2017-18 - \$2.33 million (GST exclusive)

- 2018-19 - \$2.38 million (GST exclusive)
- 2019-20 - \$2.42 million (GST exclusive)
- 2020-21 - \$2.47 million (GST exclusive)
- 2021-22 - \$3.06 million (GST exclusive)
- 2022-23 - \$27.33 million (GST exclusive)
- 2023-24 - \$41.31 million (GST exclusive).

**1b):**

Between 1 July 2022 and 31 January 2024, more than 8,450 households have been assisted by the IHR package across Queensland, including brokering more than 208,290 nights of short-term, temporary accommodation, purchase of essential items and services, and/or tenancy commencement/sustainment assistance.

The Miles Government provides a wide range of private rental products and services to assist Queensland renters to find, keep and get a private rental property. Of these products and services, several are specifically tailored for households through non-repayable financial assistance. These include:

- **Rental Grants** – Once-only, non-repayable grants equivalent to the amount of two weeks' rent to help people move into a new rental home.
- **Rental Security Subsidy** – Financial support of up to \$10,000 over 12 months to overcome unexpected, short-term life events (illness, relationship breakdown) to keep or find a private tenancy.
- **RentConnect – Tenancy Assistance** – Provides individual amounts up to \$1,200 over a two-year period to assist people to keep a private rental tenancy.

Between 1 July 2015 and 29 February 2024, the department has provided over \$46 million in products and services designed to provide temporary financial assistance to over 66,000 households to help them find or keep a private rental property, as follows:

- 2015-16 - \$2.581 million - (6,223 households)
- 2016-17 - \$3.067 million - (7,060 households)
- 2017-18 - \$3.197 million - (7,092 households)
- 2018-19 - \$3.972 million - (8,005 households)
- 2019-20 - \$10.323 million - (11,641 households)
- 2020-21 - \$4.093 million - (6,687 households)
- 2021-22 - \$4.290 million - (6,186 households)
- 2022-23 - \$7.402 million - (7,786 households)
- 2023-24\* - \$7.855 million - (6,107 households)

\*figures as at 29 February 2024.

The new *Homes for Queenslanders* plan will include a new Renters Relief Package (RRP), backed by \$160 million funding over five years. As part of the package, extra funding will be provided for a range of private market products and services, with eligibility for assistance to be expanded to help more renters to find, get and keep a home in the private rental market.

The RRP will also see the establishment of a new portable bond loan scheme to allow renters to transfer their bond when relocating from one rental property to another. An additional 42 RentConnect officers will be hired to ensure the 21 Housing Service Centres are able to assist in the delivery of the RRP.