

Question on Notice

No. 943

Asked on Wednesday, 21 August 2024

MRS KNUTH ASKED THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING, LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND PLANNING AND MINISTER FOR PUBLIC WORKS (HON M SCANLON)—

QUESTION:

With reference to the Household Resilience Scheme and concerns that the criteria is making it unaffordable for low and middle income earners to access, noting that a roof replacement can cost between \$30k-\$40k, the program only covers 80 percent of the cost up to a maximum of \$15k, leaving a personal cost for home owners of more than 50 percent of the cost of a new roof—

Will the Minister (a) commit to reviewing the current criteria to increase the ceiling maximum and ensure the scheme can be accessed for lower to middle income earners and (b) provide details on how many Queenslanders have accessed the scheme whose annual income is under \$60k?

ANSWER:

The Household Resilience Program (HRP) is funded through the Australian Government's Disaster Ready Fund, and administered by the Department of Housing, Local Government, Planning and Public Works (the department).

Since the introduction of the HRP, evaluation activities have been periodically undertaken to assess the performance of the program throughout the various phases. On completion of Phase 4, a further evaluation will be undertaken. Under the HRP guidelines, alterations of the scope of the program, including criteria, are made through joint consultation between the Queensland and Australian governments.

Phases 1 to 3 of the HRP assisted 4,469 low-income Queenslanders in cyclone-prone areas to increase the wind-resistance of their homes in central and north Queensland. As at 26 August 2024, 353 grants have been awarded for Phase 4.

Eligibility criteria for the HRP has remained consistent since the program's inception in 2018: homeowners must meet income eligibility requirements based on the National Rent Affordability Scheme (NRAS) initial income limits. Income levels are assessed on the total income for a household, not an individual - in accordance with the NRAS eligibility available at online at www.qld.gov.au/housing/renting/rent-assistance/nras.

As at 30 August 2024, 110 Phase 4 grants have been awarded so far to a household with a composition of one adult under the NRAS (2024-25) initial income limit.

In Phases 2 and 3, 940 grants were awarded to a household with a composition of one adult under the relevant annual NRAS initial income limit.

As Phase 1 was a pilot, information for the household composition of single homeowner was not captured in the same manner; however 1,748 grants were approved within the NRAS parameters at the time.