

Question on Notice

No. 138

Asked on Tuesday, 12 March 2025

(HON G GRACE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING AND PUBLIC WORKS AND MINISTER FOR YOUTH (HON S O'CONNOR)—

QUESTION:

With reference to the emergency response to ex-Tropical Cyclone Alfred—

Will the Minister advise (a) how many people refused assistance into either emergency or temporary accommodation, (b) how many people who were placed in temporary accommodation will be provided with a pathway into permanent housing and (c) if the government has identified available public housing stock to accommodate those currently in emergency housing following ex-Tropical Cyclone Alfred?

ANSWER:

Local governments are primarily responsible for responding to disasters in their area, including the establishment and management of evacuation centres and places of refuge.

Following the closure of evacuation centres, in line with the Queensland Disaster Guidelines, the Department of Housing and Public Works (DHPW) has responsibility for the provision of temporary accommodation solutions and services for impacted community members where local options have been exhausted.

After a disaster, DHPW can provide temporary accommodation and other support for displaced members of the community, including homeowners, private rental tenants, social housing tenants or people experiencing homelessness, through an Emergency Housing Assistance Response (EHAR).

(a) During ex-Tropical Cyclone Alfred, every individual who was willing to engage with the department was either referred to state-funded Specialist Homelessness Services for support and temporary accommodation or offered temporary accommodation through the department. For a variety of reasons, some of these individuals did not accept temporary accommodation and we do not capture this data.

(b) Recovery efforts are continuing however, as at 11 April 2025, a total of 444 EHAR requests had been received by the department from members of the community requiring assistance in response to ex-Tropical Cyclone Alfred. 402 of these have been finalised with 100 households currently being supported by the department to determine their long-term housing outcome.

Of the total 444 EHAR requests, only 170 required temporary accommodation equating to 278 people.

(c) Due to years of underinvestment by the former Labor government, with only 509 social homes delivered on average each year between 2015-16 and 2023-24, there is limited public and community housing stock available. This lack of planning has

made it challenging to immediately accommodate displaced households into long-term social housing where there is already significant demand on the social housing property portfolio. Eligible individuals in temporary accommodation from this cohort can apply for social housing if they choose to.

The Crisafulli Government is prioritising the supply of new housing with 5,000 new social and affordable homes currently contracted or under construction.

The department will continue to work with eligible displaced households requiring a social housing outcome, based on how their needs and circumstances match with the features, location, size and amenity of available social housing stock, including both public and community housing.