

## Question on Notice

No. 148

Asked on Tuesday, 12 March 2025

(MR C WHITING ASKED THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING AND PUBLIC WORKS AND MINISTER FOR YOUTH (HON S O'CONNOR)—

QUESTION:

With reference to Page 3 of the Minister's Charter Letter and his key portfolio deliverable to 'Realign the Department of Housing and Public Works to prioritise long-term, stable accommodation, not short-term stop gaps'—

Will the Minister provide the list of programs the Minister and the Department of Housing and Public Works have identified to be 'stop gaps'?

ANSWER:

The Crisafulli Government is realigning the Department of Housing and Public Works to focus on long-term, stable accommodation – because Queenslanders deserve more than stop-gap measures.

That starts with accelerating the delivery of new social and affordable housing to alleviate pressure across the system, especially for those experiencing homelessness and housing insecurity. The former government used the Housing Investment Fund to purchase existing homes from the private market instead of building new homes, adding pressure to the Queensland housing crisis. The Crisafulli Government has refocused the Housing Investment Fund towards building new homes for Queenslanders.

In response to current demand from the housing crisis we inherited, the Crisafulli Government has provided additional expenditure beyond what was inadequately budgeted to continue the delivery of crisis accommodation programs. This includes the Immediate Housing Response delivered through our Specialist Homelessness Services as well as Refuge Accommodation Assistance delivered directly through the Department of Housing and Public Works.

To ensure frontline services that support vulnerable Queenslanders can operate with confidence, the Crisafulli Government is locking in a 20% uplift in funding for Specialist Homelessness Services across the forward estimates, as opposed to the former government who had the funding uplift ending in June 2025. For too long these organisations have had service agreements without funding agreements to match. They have had workers who have not had their own job certainty while they are spending every hour of their day helping Queenslanders in difficult situations.

The former Labor government left a legacy of short-term stop-gap measures. We are delivering a clear, long-term plan to restore confidence, capacity and compassion in Queensland's housing system.