

Question on Notice

No. 848

Asked on Friday, 27 June 2025

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

QUESTION:

With reference to the government's proposal to review current social housing tenants to reassess their eligibility—

Will the Minister advise (a) what support the government will provide to tenants who are deemed no longer eligible for social housing to assist them in transitioning into the private rental market, (b) will the government offer financial assistance for moving costs for these tenants, (c) what support will be available to assist with the private rental application process, particularly for individuals who require additional help and (d) what specific assistance will be available for vulnerable tenants or those with complex needs to ensure they are not left at risk of homelessness or housing insecurity?

ANSWER:

After ongoing eligibility checks were suspended for five years under the former Labor government, from 1 July 2025 the Department of Housing and Public Works commenced a strengthened tenancy management approach to restore fairness to our public housing system and ensure our homes are available for the most vulnerable people in our community.

Annual tenancy and rent reviews for public housing tenants will be conducted progressively to ensure our tenants are paying the correct rent, remain eligible, and live in housing that meets their needs.

Households who are ineligible for ongoing public housing assistance will be supported to transition into the private housing market. Tenants will be provided with a four-month transition period to help ease the disruption of relocating and to ensure they have adequate time to find suitable alternative housing. In these situations, the department will not be providing financial assistance for the costs of moving.

The Crisafulli Government has ensured additional review mechanisms are in place for vulnerable tenants who are found to be ineligible for social housing under the policy. This will allow our housing officers to consider whether the tenant has capacity to reasonably access housing in the private market, and their ability to successfully transition to and live independently in the private market.

The department offers various private housing products and services including bond loans, rental grants and access to RentConnect services to assist with any transition an individual found no longer to be eligible requires.

RentConnect officers at Housing Service Centres are available to guide and support tenants in finding suitable private rental properties. RentConnect officers can provide customised assistance, targeted advice, referrals, and information to help households secure private rental accommodation. These services can include helping tenants to contact local real estate agents, understand the rental application process and fill out rental application forms.

The department's approach is to work in partnership with the tenant to understand and offer the appropriate support they may need to transition smoothly into alternative, independent housing that suits their individual circumstances.