

HEALTH AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

REPORT No. 35 ON THE REVIEW OF THE AUDITOR-GENERAL'S REPORT No. 6 FOR 2012-13: *IMPLEMENTING THE NATIONAL PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT ON HOMELESSNESS IN QUEENSLAND*

QUEENSLAND GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

INTRODUCTION

On 1 November 2013, the Health and Community Services Committee tabled Report No. 35 in relation to the Auditor-General's Report to Parliament No. 6 for 2012-13 – *Implementing the National Partnership Agreement on Homelessness in Queensland*.

The Queensland Government response to recommendations made by the Committee is provided below.

RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation 1 - the Committee recommends that the Government ensure that all departments ensure that their program targets are realistic, relevant and measurable, and do not impose unreasonable reporting burden on funded bodies.

Government Response – the recommendation is supported. In April 2013, the Government responded to the Independent Commission of Audit's final Report and accepted many of the recommendations.

In response to the Budget Management Framework, the Government accepted all recommendations (50 through to 54) formalising the Government's commitment to strong fiscal management, accountability and transparency. Further, the Government has a number of measures in place to strengthen fiscal and performance reporting and supports the improvement of budget processes across government.

Additionally, the Government accepted all recommendations (55 through to 57) relating to Grant administration to achieve better value for money and minimise the administrative overhead costs involved. Through the Social Services Cabinet Committee, work has commenced on the implementation of these recommendations.

Recommendation 2 – the Committee recommends that the Government ensure that all departments:

- Set and implement relevant performance measures, including the timeliness and quality of services provided, when funding non-government organisations to provide services, and
- Analyse and make best use of the performance data provide by non-government organisations when monitoring and evaluating a non-government organisation's performance and the cost efficiency of service agreements.

Government Response – the recommendation is supported. As the Committee is aware, the Queensland Government is committed to making Queensland the best state in Australia, which includes shifting the way government traditionally does business and supporting private sector

operators and non-Government organisations to deliver services where appropriate. Put simply, the Government is moving from being a “doer” to an “enabler”.

The Government's response to the Independent Commission of Audit's final report supports this strategy and relates to Housing Services as per recommendation 115. The Government accepted this recommendation and its responsibility to deliver housing for disadvantaged and vulnerable Queenslanders. The Government recognises that this can be achieved by different models such as private partnerships and management by community housing organisations and to this effect the Government is currently exploring innovative ways to provide new public housing stock.

Further, the Government accepted all recommendations relating to Government Procurement (recommendations 153 to 155) which will establish consistent, standard policies and practices across government, and generate opportunities for greater cost-savings by having a more commercial approach to procurement policies.

Work has commenced on the implementation of these recommendations.