



Minister for Housing, Local Government and Planning Minister for Public Works

Our Ref: MN01461-2024

20 JUN 2024

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Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
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Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for your letter of 22 May 2024 regarding petition 4005-23 requesting the installation of reverse cycle air-conditioners in all public housing homes. The Miles Labor Government is committed to ensuring government-owned homes are comfortable, as well as environmentally, socially and economically sustainable.

Since the Labor Government's introduction of the National Construction Code (NCC) and Queensland Development Code (QDC) mandatory standards in 2005, the Department of Housing, Local Government, Planning and Public Works has commenced construction of over 16,000 social homes which meet required thermal comfort standards, without air-conditioning.

In addition to NCC and QDC standards, the *Social Housing Design Guideline* available at www.business.qld.gov.au, mandates that new social homes ensure tenant comfort through good design that responds to the site and its locality, acknowledging the different climatic regions of Queensland. For example, this can be achieved through the plan, shape and orientation of the building, providing protection to windows and doors and providing covered outdoor space.

While many homes incorporated good orientation, shading, insulation, and provision for cross-ventilation before this was mandated by thermal comfort standards, many older homes, including government-owned homes, were not built to contemporary standards. The thermal comfort of these older social homes is being improved through maintenance and upgrade programs and, over the next four years, the Thermal Comfort Program will install ceiling fans and ceiling insulation (where applicable) in the entire government-owned social housing portfolio, as well as evaporative coolers, where effective. There may also be funding available for eligible NDIS participants to instal air-conditioning under the federal NDIS Home Modifications scheme.

I thank the petitioners for raising this matter with me and I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

Meaghan Scanlon MP
Minister for Housing, Local Government and Planning
Minister for Public Works