



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

Our Ref: MN11165-2024

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25 September 2024

Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
Parliament House
clerksoffice@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for your letter of 22 August 2024 regarding the petition received by the Queensland Legislative Assembly No. 4095-2024.

The Miles Government understands that our housing system is under considerable pressure, as is the case across the country. As Minister, I want to assure petitioners that we are pulling every lever possible to make sure all Queenslanders have a safe, affordable place to call home.

That's why earlier this year we introduced our *Homes for Queenslanders* plan (the Plan), a \$3.1 billion investment in our housing system. A key pillar of the Plan is setting Queensland on a path towards ending homelessness. We have committed \$526 million over the next five years to work towards ending homelessness, including an almost \$390 million increase in funding for homelessness support to meet demand for frontline services.

Of this, over \$157 million is allocated through the Plan to deliver:

- a 20 per cent funding uplift to all Specialist Homelessness Services in Queensland
- an enhanced outreach service model, including more after-hours outreach services for people who are experiencing homelessness
- delivery of enhanced tenancy sustainment services to help people maintain their tenancies and stay in their homes
- an extension of the Immediate Housing Response to enable assistance to access emergency accommodation for singles and couples, as well as families.

It's our commitment that where people are ready to accept an offer of accommodation, the government will fund it.

We have also expanded our Critical Response Team across 17 locations within the State. Working in partnership with Specialist Homelessness Outreach services, these new teams are doing direct outreach in Cairns, Mareeba, Tablelands, Townsville, Mackay, Rockhampton, Livingstone, Fraser Coast (including Bundaberg), Gympie, Sunshine Coast, Moreton Bay, Logan, Ipswich, Redlands, Toowoomba and the Gold Coast. They provide immediate outreach to people sleeping rough and have found accommodation for 1,250 households to date.

Our hardworking frontline staff perform a crucial role in delivering housing assistance and homelessness support services. This includes staff in the department's Housing Service Centres responding to people experiencing homelessness and working with workers from Specialist Homelessness Services to engage short-term temporary accommodation and support for people requiring immediate assistance. Staff from Housing Service Centres may also broker nights of short-term temporary accommodation directly and work with customers to source longer term, safe and secure housing.

We are also increasing the supply of new social housing homes, with the delivery of 53,500 new social housing homes by 2046. To help meet this target, the Government is making a \$1.25 billion down payment over the next five years to contribute to a ramp up to delivering over 2,000 social housing homes each year from 2028.

If you require further information, my Chief of Staff, Ms Clare Manton can be contacted on (07) 3719 7170 or by email at clare.manton@ministerial.qld.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Meaghan Scanlon', with a stylized, cursive script.

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