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Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
Queensland Parliamentary Service
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Dear Mr Laurie

Neil

Thank you for your email of 25 March 2025 regarding a petition to the Queensland Legislative Assembly (4370-26): *Homeless amnesty*.

I acknowledge the intent behind the petition's proposal to establish designated sites for people experiencing homelessness and thank the petitioner's for taking the time to put together a proposal.

This concept has been examined multiple times and presents complex, interdependent delivery challenges, including the limited availability of suitably located sites, the need to provide resources for 24/7 safety and security for occupants and the surrounding community, and significant ongoing operational and maintenance demands.

Queensland is experiencing a housing crisis after a decade in which housing supply failed to keep pace with demand, with an average of just 509 social homes delivered each year.

The Crisafulli Government is working to turn this around. We recognise that homelessness is a complex issue requiring both immediate action and long-term solutions. Our approach is focused on addressing urgent need while also driving lasting structural change to ensure every Queenslanders has access to safe, secure and affordable housing.

Significant new investments are supporting this balanced approach, including increased funding for homelessness services and housing programs, alongside a commitment to deliver one million homes by 2044, including 53,500 social and community homes.

The 2025-26 Queensland State Budget committed an additional \$1.892 billion to delivering social and community housing, as part of our total \$5.6 billion investment through to 2028-29. This is complemented by ongoing funding of \$500 million per year from 2029-30 to maintain a strong, long-term pipeline of new social and community housing.

Since being elected, the Crisafulli Government has delivered 2,631 social and affordable homes and we have contracted or commenced construction on a further 4,695 homes.

Alongside these long-term investments, the Government is committed to providing practical, immediate support for people experiencing homelessness. This includes targeted early intervention, tenancy sustainment and evidence-based responses that adapt to meet the diverse needs of Queenslanders. These efforts are underpinned by a 20 per cent increase in funding for Specialist Homelessness Services (SHS) over four years, together with a \$365 million investment in crisis accommodation to ensure frontline services have the capacity to respond to immediate need.

The Department of Housing and Public Works (the department) collaborates closely with local councils to assist people experiencing homelessness, including those camping in makeshift dwellings. Initiatives such as the Housing Outreach and Mobile Engagement (HOME) team, use a co-responder model to deliver outreach in known homelessness hotspots, connecting individuals with emergency accommodation, integrated housing solutions, health services, and other community resources.

These efforts are supported by the Immediate Housing Response initiative, which enables SHS providers to deliver short-term emergency accommodation and tailored support for people experiencing, or at risk of, homelessness. These SHS providers are also funded to deliver 1,965 places of Temporary Supported Accommodation across Queensland, which assists people to transition to safe, secure and sustainable housing.

In addition to support services and social and community housing pathways, the department also provides a range of private market assistance to help people secure and sustain housing.

This includes personalised assistance through RentConnect services, as well as access to bond loans, rental grants, headleasing arrangements and rent subsidies where appropriate.

To further strengthen our response to homelessness, the Crisafulli Government has established Queensland's first Homelessness Ministerial Advisory Council (HMAC). HMAC brings together government, local councils, representatives from the housing and homelessness sector, peak bodies, and industry groups to identify challenges, share best practices, and develop innovative solutions. This collaborative approach ensures a coordinated and effective response to homelessness across the state.

Regarding the suggestion to redefine the term 'homeless', Queensland aligns with the Australian Bureau of Statistics framework as all Australian jurisdictions do, which defines homelessness as lacking safe, secure, and adequate housing. This definition encompasses individuals living on the streets, in temporary shelters, or in housing that does not meet basic standards or security, and at this time, there are no plans to redefine this term.

The Crisafulli Government remains committed to working collaboratively with councils, community organisations, and other stakeholders to address homelessness through targeted initiatives and long-term solutions and I value the petitioners' advocacy on behalf of Queenslanders in need.

I thank the petitioners for raising this important issue.

Yours sincerely



Sam O'Connor MP
Minister for Housing and Public Works
Minister for Youth