

Ministerial Housing Council

Tuesday, 28 August 2018

COMMUNIQUE

The Honourable Mick de Brenni, Minister for Housing and Public Works, Minister for Digital Technology and Minister for Sport, reconvened the Ministerial Housing Council (the Council) on Tuesday 28 August 2018.

The Ministerial Housing Council endorses the enforcement of established standards to protect residents in residential services, noting that these residents are among the most vulnerable people in the community, and rejected the notion that unregistered residential services were appropriate.

The Council was given an update on major reforms and initiatives being undertaken through the *Queensland Housing Strategy 2017-2027*. The meeting also provided an opportunity for Council members to engage with key consultation processes being led by the Department of Housing and Public Works (the department).

This included the *Queensland Sport and Active Recreation Strategy 2019-2029*. The Council agreed that with its strong focus on improving whole of life outcomes, employment outcomes and creating inclusive communities, the principles and intent of this Strategy intersect well with the *Queensland Housing Strategy 2017-2027*.

The *Queensland Housing Strategy 2017-2027* has now completed its first year of activity. The Council noted that the Housing Construction Jobs Program had exceeded its targets for the first year of delivery and significant achievements have been made in transforming service delivery as the department shifts towards a person-centred, holistic and integrated service approach.

The Council welcomed the implementation of Stage 1 *Housing Legislation (Building Better Futures) Amendment Act 2017* (HLAA) amendments in the coming months. The Council was assured that implementation was progressing well, and members were invited to actively participate in further consultation processes.

The Council noted that the National Building Ministers' Forum recently considered an options paper on accessible housing to progress future reform of construction codes to enable people with disability to have access to appropriate housing. The Accessible Housing Options Paper will be updated and released in September 2018 to inform a Regulatory Impact Assessment in early 2019.

The Renting in Queensland review is now underway, with an extensive consultation process to begin in the coming months. The Council was invited to contribute ideas on how members could get involved and amplify the consultation program to ensure Queenslanders can have their say on their renting experiences and how renting can be improved.

The Council also noted the status of intergovernmental discussions on the National Housing and Homelessness Agreement (NHHA) and the National Partnership on Remote Housing (NPRH). In particular, members noted ongoing uncertainty of funding under NPRH. The Council again calls on the Australian Government to provide certainty for funding for remote housing in Queensland to ensure the State can continue to meet housing needs and deliver the positive economic and employment benefits for these remote communities.

KPMG presented to members on the upcoming Affordable Housing Research Project. The project has been commissioned by the department, with expert oversight to be provided by the Housing and Homelessness Research Alliance. The research project will address the definition of affordable housing in the Queensland context and will outline options for more effective investment in the sector.

The Council will reconvene late in 2018.