

Ministerial Housing Council

Tuesday, 27 March 2018

COMMUNIQUE

The Honourable Mick de Brenni MP, Minister for Housing and Public Works, Minister for Digital Technology and Minister for Sport, reconvened the Ministerial Housing Council (the Council) on Friday, 27 March 2018.

Members were updated on the significant activity that has been undertaken since the release of *the Queensland Housing Strategy 2017-2027*.

This included the recent release of *Partnering for impact* to reduce homelessness in Queensland, a commitment to funding certainty and stability for the homelessness sector through the implementation of five-year funding agreements. A Queensland Homelessness Compact with the homelessness sector will be developed to jointly drive a shared vision to address homelessness in Queensland.

The Council welcomed the Queensland Parliament's approval of the *Housing Legislation (Building Better Futures) Amendment Bill* in October 2017 and noted the range of activities being undertaken to implement associated changes to ensure a fair regulatory system for consumers and operators/landlords in Queensland.

The Grattan Institute presented to members on their recently released report *Housing affordability: rebuilding the Australian dream*, which includes recommendations to increase affordable housing, for consideration by Australian governments.

Members noted that the new Housing and Homelessness Research Alliance, a core commitment of the Queensland Housing Strategy, held its first meeting in March 2018. Members of the Alliance agreed to provide expert oversight on an affordable housing research project being commissioned by the Department of Housing and Public Works.

The Council also noted the status of inter-governmental discussions on the National Housing and Homelessness Agreement and the National Partnership on Remote Housing (NPRH). In particular, Members noted ongoing uncertainty of funding under the NPRH. The Council calls on the Commonwealth Government to provide certainty for funding for remote housing in Queensland to ensure we continue to meet housing needs and to ensure continuation of the construction program and the positive economic and employment benefits for these remote communities, noting existing commitments expire on 30 June 2018. The Council noted that discontinuation of Commonwealth funding will result in a significant reduction in the scale of housing and homelessness services in communities across the State.

The Council will reconvene in August 2018.