

Tuesday 6 September 2011

\$2 BILLION FOR HOMES AND HELP FOR OUR MOST VULNERABLE

The NSW Liberals & Nationals Government has affirmed its commitment to preventing housing stress and homelessness with the allocation of more than \$2 billion in this year's Budget to address these issues.

Minister for Family and Community Services Pru Goward and Minister for Finance and Services Greg Pearce said that the Budget provided significant investment in housing infrastructure and services to help those most in need of housing support.

"This budget will assist more than **450,000 people across NSW**, including more than **330,000** people living in public, community and Aboriginal housing," Ms Goward said.

"The NSW Liberals & Nationals Government is committed to building stronger and more sustainable communities. We are listening to and meeting tenants' needs.

"This Budget will also assist 38,000 people with crisis accommodation.

"\$45.7 million will be available to help at least 37,000 households with Temporary Accommodation and Rentstart to help secure accommodation in the private rental market.

"A further \$119 million has been set aside for new leases from the private rental market and to continue leases on 9,285 homes already let for public and community housing."

Minister for Finance and Services Greg Pearce said the Budget includes a \$488.6 million investment in capital works for public, community and Aboriginal housing during 2011-12.

"This investment is underpinned by a new approach in social housing investment targeting the building of communities rather than construction of towers," Mr Pearce said.

"This will lead to reduced concentrations of social housing, support the social and economic participation of residents, and contribute to a more sustainable and affordable social housing system.

"This budget is a first step to addressing Labor's legacy of 43,000 people on the social housing waiting list and a maintenance backlog of over \$300 million," Mr Pearce said.

Areas of expenditure in the 2011-12 Budget include:

- \$221.5 million to build 529 new social housing homes and to complete 1,072 units that were started in previous years.
- \$203.2 million for routine repairs and maintenance in public and community housing.
- \$195 million to upgrade public and community housing, including crisis accommodation such as women's refuges and emergency accommodation for homeless people.
- \$23.6 million for private rental subsidies to assist people with disabilities.

- \$17.7 million for the Building Stronger Communities program to improve the quality of the built environment and community in seven major locations.
- \$5.5 million to continue with the rollout of Start Safely, a program to provide assistance to 567 households leaving domestic and family violence.
- \$2.4 million to improve environmental sustainability in public housing by replacing electric hot water systems with solar systems and retrofit ceiling insulation.

In addition, the Aboriginal Housing Office will be allocated:

- \$21 million for the repair and maintenance of up to 500 homes supplied by Aboriginal community housing providers in urban and regional areas under the Build and Grow program.
- \$12.6 million to reform and strengthen the Aboriginal community housing sector under the *Build and Grow* program through the Provider Assessment and Registration System, time-limited operating subsidies and business development and support.
- \$13 million to deliver 30 new homes under the Aboriginal Housing Office's capital works program.
- \$16.7 million to build 35 new homes in remote areas under the National Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Housing.
- \$2.7 million for six new homes for employment and training related accommodation for Aboriginal people.

In total, the Family and Community Services cluster will receive over \$5.5 billion in the 2011-12 Budget for services and over \$250 million for capital infrastructure. This includes funding for the Aboriginal Housing Office; Ageing, Disability and Home Care; Businesslink; Community Services, Housing NSW and the Office for Women's Policy.

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