

Options for essential worker housing in NSW

Hearing – 3/12/2024

Supplementary Questions

QUESTION 1 –

1. What are the proposed number of workers for the new hospital(s):
 - a. by year over the next 5 years;
 - b. by potential categories (including by categories according to the Industrial Award) each year over the next 5 years?

ANSWER

Illawarra Shoalhaven Local Health District has not yet finalised projected staffing numbers for Day 1 operation of the new hospitals. Determining staffing requirements is an ongoing process that will continue until the hospitals are closer to opening.

QUESTION 2

2. At the hearing, you referred to a committee on key worker accommodation led by NSW Health (Transcript, p 36).
 - a. What agencies are involved in this committee, and what role does it play in analysing and addressing housing needs for local health districts across NSW?
 - b. Does the committee with private developers to deliver affordable housing for NSW Health's workers?

ANSWER

- a. NSW Health are members of the Housing and Accommodation Subcommittee, led by the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure. The committee supports the development of housing and accommodation strategies including housing for key workers.

NSW Health is also part of the Key Worker Housing Operational Delivery Group, led by Homes NSW. The group meets monthly and includes representation from Teachers and Police Housing, Department of Education and NSW Police Force. This forum meets to report on key worker program performance, discuss policy and legislation for Key Worker Housing and exchange ideas and learnings to support operational efficiency gains through on-going collaboration.

The NSW Key Health Worker Accommodation Executive Committee oversees the \$200.1 million Rural and Regional Key Health Worker Accommodation program. Rural and regional health entities analysed their key worker housing needs and identified priority locations. A panel-assessed shortlist of high priority locations for funding under the program was endorsed by the Executive Committee and the NSW Health Secretary.

- b. Under the Key Health Worker Accommodation program, dwellings will be obtained through acquiring properties, building new housing, installing modular housing and refurbishing existing Health-owned properties. Where NSW Health entities elect to build traditional housing or procure modular housing, developers will be engaged in accordance with NSW Government Procurement Policy Framework.

QUESTION 3

What opportunities are there to renew existing housing stock operated by the Illawarra Shoalhaven Local Health District? Would this renewal reduce the need to lease properties on the private rental market?

ANSWER

Consideration of the expansion or consolidation of existing dwellings managed by Illawarra Shoalhaven Local Health District is being considered by the District and Ministry of Health as part of the proposals for key worker accommodation under the additional \$200.1 million funding included in the 2024-25 budget.

These matters are still under consideration and the key priority is the recruitment and retention of staff. While the District would seek to reduce the reliance on leases from the private rental market, there will remain a need to the District to use these leases.