

**RESPONSE TO COUNCILLOR QUESTIONS
ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING 6 September 2017**

Councillor Question Time – answers to questions taken on notice*

Asked a number of questions in relation to the closure of the Gatwick Private Hotel and the residents that were required to be relocated.

1. Are the former residents still in housing and is there monitoring in place to ensure that they continue in housing and do not become homeless?
2. Who is undertaking this monitoring and what does it consist of?

(Cr Copsey)

Response

The City of Port Phillip supported an intensive multi-agency effort to rehouse residents as part of the Rooming House Closure Protocol, a sub-plan of the City of Port Phillip's Municipal Emergency Management Plan.

Coordination and case allocation was coordinated at weekly meetings. Each resident was allocated a key support worker who supported residents into their new housing through a range providers:

- St Kilda Community Housing (SCH)
- Wintringham Older Persons Outreach Program
- STAR Health: Community Connections Program, Insecure Housing Case Management Program and Mental Health Program
- Port Phillip Housing Association
- DHHS: Office of Housing
- Bolton Clarke (formerly RDNS) Homeless Persons Program
- City of Port Phillip Housing and Homelessness Service
- Sacred Heart Mission: Assistance with Care and Housing & Rooming House Plus Program
- Launch Housing: Initial Assessment and Planning Program
- Alfred Health: Homeless Outreach Psychiatric Service

St Kilda Community Housing was funded by DHHS as the lead agency for the relocation project. The funding provided did not extend to ongoing monitoring or follow up of former residents, however, each key support worker committed to providing six months ongoing support post-relocation for their clients on an 'as-needs' basis.

While most outreach case management programs are funded to provide support for a defined period (often a maximum of 13 weeks), programs like Star Health's Community Connections Program and Wintringham Older Persons Outreach Program have the capacity to provide ongoing support. Additionally, those resident who are current Alfred Homeless Outreach Psychiatric Service patients will continue to receive services on an as needed basis or as determined by a treatment order.

If a relocated resident requires additional, longer term support than was able to be provided by the agency of the allocated key worker, it was agreed that a referral to another service would be made to ensure continuity of support.

An account provided by allocated support workers indicates that:

- Three residents moved in to private rooming houses or private share houses. These residents did not require or want ongoing support. It is unknown whether these residents remain in that same housing.
- Six residents moved into another private rooming house owned by Rose Banks and Yvette Kelly. These residents were long-term residents of the Gatwick and while it is unknown whether they all remain in that property, the sustained nature of their tenancies at the Gatwick suggest it is reasonable to assume they would similarly retain their new accommodation.
- The remaining residents who were relocated to social housing or supported accommodation (Office of Housing, St Kilda Community Housing, Port Phillip Housing Association, Sacred Heart Queens Road Supported Accommodation, Wintringham Housing, Alma House Supported Residential Service. All of the individuals relocated to social housing or supported accommodation remain housed at this time.

**Note: answers to any questions in Councillor Question Time which were answered at the meeting are included in the minutes of that meeting.*