

Public housing slated for serious reforms

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HOUSE RULES: Member for Tamworth Kevin Anderson with Family and Community Services Minister Gabrielle Upton in Tamworth talking social housing and homelessness reforms. Photo: Geoff O'Neill 100315GOA03

FAMILY and Community Services Minister Gabrielle Upton was the latest politician to put Tamworth on their election trail yesterday.

With Tamworth Nationals MP Kevin Anderson, Ms Upton officially launched a new specialist homelessness service and outlined the crackdown on those who commit crime and breach lease arrangements while living in social housing.

Tamworth Family Support Service (TFSS) will deliver the homelessness support service for men, women, families and youth.

“Under the NSW government’s Going Home Staying Home (GHS) reforms to specialist homelessness services, TFSS will continue to deliver the best possible help to those who are homeless or at risk of homelessness,” Mr Anderson said.

“Under the GSH reforms, funding for specialist homelessness services in the Hunter New England Family and Community (FACS) District has increased by 12 per cent to \$18.3 million per annum. This funding will help support close to 8800 people in need.”

Ms Upton said they wanted to prevent homelessness.

“The reforms mean people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness will get the right help when and where they need it,” she said.

The two politicians also discussed anti-social behaviour in social housing.

Mr Anderson said people deserved to live in safe, secure and high-quality social housing and by evicting those who committed crimes and participated in anti-social behaviour it would free up waiting lists for those truly needing social housing.

He said people in social housing needed to be aware of their responsibilities as good citizens and police had welcomed these reforms.

Ms Upton said they wanted those in need to be able to access public housing.

If re-elected, the Coalition said they would reform social housing, crackdown on anti-social and illegal behaviour by increasing powers to kick out serious criminals.