



Shelley Hancock
Minister for Local Government

MEDIA RELEASE

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LOCAL SUPPORT FOR HOARDING AND SQUALOR CASES

The NSW Government has partnered with Catholic Healthcare to support councils across the State as they manage the complex issues of hoarding and squalor on private property.

Minister for Local Government Shelley Hancock said the solution-focused support ensured councils were well placed to utilise their enforcement powers and ensure best practice outcomes within their communities.

“Hoarding on private properties can be a complex issue to manage for local councils, with each case presenting unique challenges,” Mrs Hancock said.

“Thanks to this partnership, 37 training sessions benefiting more than 250 council staff across the New South Wales were held to delve into the broad and often deep-rooted problems that cause hoarding in addition to management.

“The Government recognises there is not a one-size-fits-all solution, and we are providing support and guidance to compliment enforcement powers that will help councils work through these issues with affected residents.”

In response to participant feedback, the Office of Local Government has also provided resources for councils including the Hoarding and Squalor Participant Workbook alongside directories with information and advice about the support services available in their region.

“The training sessions covered key topics on early intervention, identifying what is hoarding and squalor, the differences and complexities associated, and getting the balance right between ‘dignity of risk’ verses ‘duty of care’,” Mrs Hancock said.

“I am pleased that Catholic Healthcare have provided training and support to our councils, and thank the council staff who participated. This is an important first step in improving the local response to these matters.”

The support resources from the Office of Local Government can be found [here](#).

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