

Meeting of Danish Delegation and Social Affairs and Health Committee

3rd of March 2020



Homelessness

- o The Ministry of the Environment and the Environment Committee in Parliament oversee housing matters in Finland. Municipalities are responsible for housing issues at a local level.
- o There are between 4 000-5 000 homeless people in Finland. More than half of the homeless are in the capital region.
- o There are too few small, affordable apartments available for rent in the cities.
- o Often homelessness is linked to other social problems, such as low income, substance abuse etc.
- o Kela (The Social Insurance Institution) is responsible for paying the general housing allowance. In 2019, 380 000 households received housing allowances.



Child Welfare- supporting those in need

- o The aim is to identify at the earliest possible stage children and families who need special support and assistance.
- o Municipalities provide important services for families, such as, maternity and child health clinics, family centres and access to social and health care professionals.
- o We promote close cooperation between families, day-care centres, schools and the social and health sector.
- o If necessary, special measures are taken to safeguard a child's well-being. This includes open services, being taken into care, substitute or institutional care.
- o Approximately 18,000 children are placed outside the home.
- o A child or youth placed into care has the right to aftercare until he/ she reaches the age of 25.



Social and Health Services Reform

- o The Constitution guarantees equal social and health services for all; currently however, this is not being implemented in practice.
- o Municipalities are responsible for social and health services. There are 294 municipalities in mainland Finland, however, they are unable to finance and organise high-quality social and health services.
- o We want to transfer the responsibility for organising services to larger operators.
- o In the future, 22 regions will be responsible for social and health services; funding would mainly come from the state.



Social and Health Services Reform

- o The main objective of the reform is to improve basic services.
- o The key issue of the reform is to integrate basic social and health care services and specialised medical care.
- o Our goal is to implement the new reform from 2023 onwards.

