

**Question on Notice**  
**No. 537**  
**Asked on 19 May 2004**

Mr WILSON asked the Minister for Public Works, Housing and Racing (Mr SCHWARTEN)-

QUESTION:

Will he advise the impact that the recent Federal Budget will have on public housing in the Ferny Grove electorate and North West Brisbane generally?

ANSWER:

There is no new funding for public housing in the 04/05 Federal Budget. The Federal Treasurer failed to even mention affordable housing in his Budget Speech. So unfortunately this means there is no additional assistance to provide public housing in regions such as North West Brisbane or the Ferny Grove electorate. Amongst the billions upon billions of dollars being spent to shore up support for the Federal Government, there is not one dollar of additional money directed towards public housing in Australia.

This means the unmet demand in the community for affordable housing will continue to increase with people unable to find affordable housing in the private sector listing for public housing, adding to waiting lists numbers.

The failure to provide any additional assistance to social housing in Australia only highlights how important the work I am doing with other State and Territory Housing Ministers to examine new ways to improve the housing system really is.

A coordinated response by all levels of governments is the only way forward to achieve significant reform. No single level of government can tackle the issue of worsening housing affordability by itself. Without National leadership we will continue to be hampered in what we can achieve at a state based level. I want to reiterate once again that I will continue to urge my colleagues in other States and Territories, and Senator Patterson, to develop a national housing policy.

Here in Queensland the Beattie Government is leading the way. The Brisbane Housing Company has been launched and is now fully operational and may in coming years be repeated in other parts of the State. A State Planning Policy on Housing and Residential Development is being developed and just recently substantial Stamp Duty concessions for first home buyers were announced. The full impact of such initiatives though cannot be achieved while the Federal Government sits on the sidelines.