

Question on Notice
No. 585
Asked on 20 May 2004

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

QUESTION:

With reference to the declining availability of affordable housing on the Gold Coast and the increasing demand for public housing –

- (1) Will he outline how the Federal Budget has address the housing crisis?
- (2) Specifically, is there any additional Federal money for public housing in Mudgeeraba and the Gold Coast or any funds allocated to addressing growing homelessness?

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 the Gold Coast or the Mudgeeraba electorate.

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.

I'm pleased to advise that in this year's State Budget there is more than \$25 million for new public housing, upgrades and housing related services on the Gold Coast.

The State Government is also developing a State Planning Policy on Housing and Residential Development 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.