

Question on Notice

Number. 427

Asked on Thursday, 24 March 2005

Mr Shane Knuth MP asked the Minister for Communities, Disability Services and Seniors (**Mr Pitt**)

With reference to crisis accommodation for people escaping domestic violence –

Will the Minister provide details (by electorate) of funded crisis accommodation facilities, including details of bed numbers and support services provided per facility?

1. For each facility, will the Minister provide an outline of recurrent funding provided to those facilities for each of the last two financial years and for the year to date?
2. For each of the last two financial years and for the year to date, will the Minister provide details of the estimated demand level and wait-time for these services, by electorate?
3. Given the extreme need for crisis accommodation in the Charters Towers electorate, will the Minister commit to funding additional emergency accommodation facilities?

ANSWER
(1-3)

The Department of Communities allocates funding (via 10 regions) under the Supported Accommodation Assistance Program to 49 domestic violence services providing crisis accommodation to women, and women and children experiencing domestic and family violence.

In the 2002-2003 financial year, \$12,642,396 was provided under the Supported Accommodation Assistance Program.

In 2003-2004: \$13,038,292.

In 2004-2005: \$13,364,590.

Due to reasons of confidentiality and the risk of disclosure of the location of domestic violence crisis accommodation services, it is not appropriate to provide details of these services by location or electorate.

Data regarding the estimated demand level and wait-time for these services over the last two financial years and year to date is not available by electorate.

A new five year Supported Accommodation Assistance Program Agreement to commence on 1 July 2005 is currently being negotiated. The Commonwealth funding offer for the agreement seeks to remove approximately \$5 million per annum from the funding base for SAAP in Queensland.

Women and children experiencing domestic and family violence in the Charters Towers area can contact the statewide 1800 telephone referral service "dvconnect", which can purchase and arrange emergency short term accommodation and travel to a crisis accommodation service. They can also contact the North Queensland Domestic Violence Resource Centre, which is funded to provide information, advice and referral, and support with personal and legal issues relating to domestic and family violence.