

**Question on Notice**  
**No. 526**  
**Asked on 20 April, 2005**

Mr HOPPER asked the Minister for Public Works, Housing and Racing  
(MR SCHWARTEN) –

**QUESTION:**

With reference to public housing stock in Queensland, for each of the last two financial years and for the year to date (reported separately) -

- (1) In each of the above years and broken down by district (reported separately), what was the total number of public housing stock in Queensland and what number were listed on the Queensland Government Asbestos Register?
- (2) For public housing stock listed on the Asbestos Register as per (1), what number were rented to tenants in each of the above years and broken down by district (reported separately) and in each instance what audits were undertaken of the asbestos risk prior to rental and what notification was given to potential tenants of the presence of asbestos?
- (3) For public housing stock listed on the Asbestos Register as per (1), what number were sold to tenants in each of the above years and broken down by district (reported separately) and in each instance what audits were undertaken of the asbestos risk prior to sale and what notification was given to potential owners of the presence of asbestos?

**ANSWER:**

(1) None. The maintenance of public housing stock is managed solely by the Department of Housing. The Department undertakes scheduled health and safety inspections of all its properties. In this respect the department has a higher duty of care than that expected of private landlords.

I advise the honourable member to not go down the path of the Liberal Party's scaremongering on this issue and strongly suggest he refers to the Opposition Leader's comments in Parliament in November 2004 where he stated "asbestos when not disturbed is not a health threat whatsoever. Everyone knows that."

(2) As there are no departmental properties listed on the Queensland Government Asbestos Register, this question cannot be answered.

(3) As there are no departmental properties listed on the Queensland Government Asbestos Register, this question cannot be answered.