

Question on Notice
No. 889
Asked on Tuesday, 7 June 2005

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

QUESTION:

With reference to the fact that since 1992 it has been mandatory that new homes or other buildings have electrical safety switches installed and since 1 September 2002 anyone purchasing an existing home or building has to retrospectively install an electrical safety switch –

What is the total number of:

- (a) public housing dwellings that have electrical safety switches installed,
- (b) public housing dwellings that do not have electrical safety switches installed,
- (c) electrical safety switches retrospectively installed into public housing dwellings since 1 September 2002 and
- (d) electrical safety switches retrospectively installed into public housing dwellings in 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05 (year-to-date) [reported separately]?

ANSWER:

Despite not being mandatory the Department of Housing commenced a three-year retrofit program to install Residual Current Devices (“RCD” or “Safety Switches”) to all circuits in all Public Housing properties. This retrofit program was introduced to comply with the applicable legislation and to improve the safety of tenants, their families and visitors from electrocution and to protect their possessions from damage. RCD installations will continue until all Public Housing properties are protected. New construction and purchased dwellings have RCD installed. Properties that are sold to existing tenants and on the private market also have RCD installed.

- (a) Approximately 48,160 Public Housing properties have RCD protection installed. 19,135 properties had RCD installed prior to 31 August 2002.
- (b) Fewer than 500 Public Housing properties remain to be fitted with RCD and these properties will have RCD installed in the coming months.
- (c) 29,025 RCD have been retrospectively installed into Public Housing properties since 1 September 2002.
- (d) 10,973 RCD were installed in 2002-03, 10,481 in 2003-04, and 8,653 in 2004-05 (year to date to 31 May 2005).