

**Question on Notice
No. 826
Asked on 24 May 2006**

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

QUESTION:

With reference to Department of Housing projects in north and far north Queensland and following concerns expressed to me by Torres Strait Islander people on Badu Island—

- (1) Will he outline how many Papua New Guinea citizens are being housed in Department of Housing units and houses?
- (2) Given the overcrowding in Indigenous housing due to relatives and friends who are cohoused, is consideration being given in design stages for these factors for communities such as Manoora, Manunda and Mooroobool, as well as other Indigenous areas?

ANSWER:

- (1) Badu Island Council, as an owner of houses and units, is supplied with funding through a program of capital grants to deliver housing outcomes for its community. The council sets tenancy management policies that comply with the *Housing Act 2003* and *Regulations*. Part of these arrangements includes the allocation of houses. Badu Island Council would be the only entity in a position to answer the Member's question.
- (2) Decisions about the design, construction and acquisition of public housing and Aboriginal and Torres Strait islander housing properties are based on the demographics and household needs of clients. New dwellings are therefore aligned with the existing and future housing need of eligible applicants, and provided in areas in which the wider housing system does not respond well because of design, location and cost.

The issue of overcrowding in Indigenous areas is being addressed in remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island communities through the development of new design guidelines and standards for remote communities.