

Question on Notice
No. 385
Asked on 8 March 2007

MS DARLING asked the Minister for Emergency Services (MR PURCELL) -

QUESTION:

With reference to the new smoke alarm laws— How will the introduction of mandatory smoke alarms help create a safer community in the Sandgate Electorate?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for her question and congratulate her for her ongoing support for Emergency Services within her electorate.

The *Fire and Rescue Service Amendment Bill 2006* is an important step forward for fire safety in Queensland.

The new smoke alarm laws which become effective on 1 July 2007, will make the installation of smoke alarms compulsory in all Queensland residences. This includes houses, townhouses, units, apartments and any other building that is classified as a dwelling.

Smoke alarms are very important domestic safety devices. The risk of death from fire in a home is up to three times higher in homes without smoke alarms.

The new law also includes conditions and responsibilities for owners and tenants of rental properties. Owners of rental properties will be required to install a smoke alarm in all dwellings they own and which are occupied, and ensure that maintenance is carried out every twelve months.

Tenants will have responsibility for ensuring the alarm is working, and advising the owner if a new alarm is required to be fitted.

The Queensland Fire and Rescue Service will undertake a communication campaign to inform all Queenslanders, including residents, rental property owners and tenants about the new requirements. Community education programs such as Safehome will also educate residents of the new requirements, and more importantly, the importance of smoke alarms as an early warning in the event of a fire.