

Question on Notice

No. 403

Asked on Tuesday, 13 March 2007

MR CRIPPS MP asked the Minister for Communities, Minister for Disability Services Queensland, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Minister for Seniors and Youth (**MR PITT**) -

With reference to his response to Question on Notice No. 34 asked on 6 February 2007 –
How many Phase 3 applications have actually been processed by this department?

ANSWER:

I appreciate the opportunity to provide an update on the number of Phase 3 applications that have been processed by the Department of Communities to assist the people of Far North Queensland recover from the devastation caused by Tropical Cyclone Larry.

The Department of Communities administers three types of funding assistance to alleviate personal hardship under the Natural Disaster Relief Arrangements (NDRA). Of these three types, Phase 3 is for structural grants for repairs to uninsured, owner-occupied dwellings.

Since Tropical Cyclone Larry struck the Far North Queensland coast on 20 March 2006, the Department of Communities has received and processed a total of 756 Phase 3 applications.

Of this total, 298 Phase 3 applications have been determined to be eligible for NDRA funding assistance, based on very clear eligibility criteria. It should be noted that ineligibility of an application was, in most cases, because the applicant's home was insured, the home was not the applicant's principal place of residence, or the applicant's income and/or assets exceeded the thresholds set out under NDRA guidelines.

To date, 274 eligible Phase 3 applications have been approved for payment. Of the 24 eligible Phase 3 applications remaining:

- 12 are for relocatable homes which have been approved for NDRA funding and are awaiting approval for supplemental funding to connect services and ensure they are cyclone rated;
- 4 are for building repairs for which quotes are currently being sourced; and
- 8 applications are for the provision of boats or caravans – the department is providing intensive case management for these clients due to the difficulty in sourcing suitable replacement vans and boats.

It is envisaged that the approval process for the 24 remaining applications will be finalised by the end of April 2007.

To date, a total of \$2.7 million of NDRA funding has been paid to Phase 3 clients to repair, replace or rebuild their homes.

Of the 298 eligible Phase 3 applications, 194 clients have had their building works finalised.

It should also be noted that, even after a Phase 3 application is approved, paid and finalised, case management may still be required to meet the personal and/or psychological needs of the client. The Department of Communities will continue to provide this support to its Phase 3 clients in 2007.