

**Question on Notice
No. 534
Asked on 15 March 2007**

Mrs MILLER asked the Minister for Public Works, Housing and Information and Communication Technology (MR SCHWARTEN)—

QUESTION:

How are the Home Assist and Home Secure programs assisting residents in the electorate of Bundamba?

ANSWER:

The Home Assist Secure service aims to remove some of the practical housing-related difficulties experienced by older people and people with a disability who wish to remain living in their home. It particularly aims to help people feel safer living at home, have easier access to and within their home, and incorporate home security routines into their daily activities.

The service provides free information and referrals about home maintenance, falls prevention, repairs and modifications and home security. Subsidised assistance for minor home maintenance, repairs and modifications which relate to health, safety and security, is also available for eligible clients.

Administered by the Department of Housing, recurrent funds are provided to community-based organisations to employ staff and to pay tradespeople to provide Home Assist Secure services across the State.

The Department of Housing provides funding to Ipswich City Council to operate a Home Assist Secure service in the Ipswich area encompassing the Bundamba electorate.

Since 1998–99, the department has supplied the Home Assist Secure program with funds totalling \$104,817,657 (GST inclusive). In 2006–07, a total of \$15,975,729 (GST inclusive) has been provided to the 41 Home Assist Secure services throughout Queensland. Of this, funds totalling \$584,342 (GST inclusive) were provided to Ipswich City Council for the operation of the Ipswich Home Assist Secure service. This equates to 3.66% of the total 2006–07 budget and is the eighth highest allocation to a Home Assist Secure service in the State.

To date in this financial year, the service has assisted 1,697 households. This is an increase of nine percent for the same period in 2005–06.

In 2005, the department conducted a client satisfaction survey on Home Assist Secure. Findings indicated that 98% of clients located in the Ipswich region rated 'very satisfied' or 'satisfied' with the service provided.