

**Question on Notice**  
**No. 793**  
**Asked on Friday 25 May 2007**

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

**QUESTION:**

With reference to the Department of Housing's own stipulated turnaround times for public housing is 21 days –

- (1) Will he detail for the last three years and the current financial year public housing properties that have been or were vacant for more than five weeks?
- (2) Will he identify the period of time each property has or had been vacant (reported separately)?

**ANSWER:**

(1) The Department of Housing's public housing portfolio at 31 May 2007 was 49,525 rental units. As with any rental properties, public rental dwellings become vacant through normal tenancy turnover. The department has a robust vacancy management regime in place which aims to minimise the number of vacant properties and as reported in the Report of Government Services 2007, Queensland has one of the lowest vacant turnaround times for public housing among the States and Territories. The percentage of vacant public housing rental units is also well below the national average.

The department is acutely aware of the ever increasing demand for social housing. It has implemented portfolio management strategies and has continued to improve vacancy management processes which have resulted in a reduction in the number of vacant tenatable dwellings. Over the past three years, the number of public housing vacant tenatable rental units that were unoccupied for more than five weeks has shown a clear downward trend. As at 31 May 2005, there were 107 vacant tenatable rental units, at 31 May 2006, 72 and at 31 May 2007, 40 were vacant tenatable.

(2) The number of vacant tenatable, public housing rental units which have been vacant for greater than five weeks often have specific issues that are being addressed by the department. For example, a property may be held vacant in the short-term to address specific client needs.