

**Question on Notice  
No. 962  
Asked on 8 June 2007**

MRS ATTWOOD asked the Minister for Public Works, Housing and Information and Communication Technology (MR SCHWARTEN)-

**QUESTION:**

Will he advise the outcomes of the Smart Housing program?

**ANSWER:**

The Smart Housing initiative was transferred from the Department of Housing to the Department of Public Works in January 2007 and has been merged with the Sustainable Homes Program.

The outcomes of the Smart Housing and Sustainable Homes Program to date are outlined below.

- Approximately 80% of building industry professionals were aware of the Smart Housing concept in 2005, compared with 31% in 2001, as demonstrated in a survey conducted by the Department of Housing.
- Following two consultation workshops in 2006, which included representatives from industry organisations, the decision was made to redraft the existing Smart Housing Design Objectives document. The redrafted document will be released as the Smart Housing Design Guidelines (the Guidelines) late in 2007.

The purpose of the Guidelines is to provide building designers and architects with strategies to design and build homes that are more comfortable to live in, are suited for people at all stages of their lives, have less impact on the environment and are cost effective over time. These concepts support the triple bottom line approach to sustainability (ie. social, economic and environmental). The Guidelines provide a framework of objectives with examples of acceptable solutions and briefly explains the sustainability element for each objective.

- There are approximately 30 homes at various stages of delivery that form the successful Sustainable Homes Program. Three homes previously on display at the Gold Coast, Zilzie and Brisbane attracted approximately 21,000 visitors. These homes successfully demonstrated sustainable principles. Four homes are about to open at Livingstone, Kirwan, Hervey Bay and Toowoomba. A number of other homes are being assessed and others are in the design stage.
- The Smart Housing initiative supported the Research House in Rockhampton, which is a four bedroom home that was built in 2001 using the Smart Housing design objectives to demonstrate innovative design, new materials and technologies to industry and the community. The house has been tenanted by a family since 2002 and data collected on water use, energy use and temperature in terms of thermal comfort. The data reports and a virtual tour of the house can be found on [www.build.qld.gov.au/researchhouse](http://www.build.qld.gov.au/researchhouse).
- A number of educational resources have been developed based on the principles of sustainability in the home. These include an online curriculum resource and booklet (targeted at school students); a training course on building a sustainable home (to be released later in 2007 and targeted at industry and the community); and the Smart Housing website. In addition, the Sustainable Homes Program assisted with the development of a TAFE training course, Graduate Certificate in Environmentally Sustainable Building.