

**Question on Notice
No. 984
Asked on 8 June 2007**

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

QUESTION:

Will he advise of initiatives to assist public housing in the Pumicestone Electorate?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for her question.

This year sees another record State Government housing assistance budget of \$719 million, including a massive \$479 million capital program, that will assist more than 250,000 Queenslanders with a housing solution that best meets their needs, for the duration of that need.

With the wider housing market experiencing increasing costs and decreasing affordability, and despite the Australian Government's continuing neglect in this regard, the Department of Housing is boosting the supply of social housing and ensuring the long-term viability of social housing assets.

As part of the 2007–08 capital works program, the Department of Housing has a budget of \$4.38 million to commence the construction of 20 dwellings and complete construction of 12 dwellings in the Pumicestone Electorate.

This will bring the number of general rental social housing stock managed by the Department of Housing in the Pumicestone Electorate to around 800.

The department also has a budget of \$0.447 million for general upgrade works on existing stock in Pumicestone.

This means that since 1998, the State Government will have invested more than \$16 million in social housing capital works and around \$10 million in maintenance and upgrade works of social housing stock in the Pumicestone Electorate.

The 2007–08 Budget is also designed to expand the supply of housing available under the Crisis Accommodation Program by investing \$15.5 million in capital works and land acquisition and a further \$9.3 million in grant funding.

In the Pumicestone Electorate, Caboolture Family Haven received \$88,660 in 2006–07 to headlease crisis accommodation and will receive \$92,378 in 2007–08 to continue delivery of this important housing response. In total, Caboolture Family Haven will have received over \$800,000 in funding through crisis accommodation headlease grants since 1998.

Another key housing response is the Community Rent Scheme which is delivered in the Pumicestone Electorate by the BreakThrough Community Housing Service. The Service received community rent scheme funding in 2006–07 of \$517,215 and the planned budget to BreakThrough for 2007–08 is \$521,881. While the Service is funded for 79 units of accommodation to be achieved through this scheme, it has in fact been able to manage an additional three properties bringing the total properties managed to 82.

The BreakThrough Community Housing Service operates across more than one electorate and has received Community Rent Scheme funding of more than \$4.39 million since 1998. The 2007–08 funding allocation will take that total to almost \$5 million.

Assisting people to remain in their own homes remains another priority for the Department of Housing and in 2007–08, the State Government has made \$14.1 million in grant funds available to assist 60,000 households across Queensland through Home Assist Secure.

In the Pumicestone Electorate, the Bribie Island Voluntary Help Association delivers this important initiative and will receive \$173,165 in the 2007–08 funding allocation to ensure Home Assist Secure services can continue. This will bring the total Home Assist Secure funding provided to the Association since 1998 to more than \$1.092 million.

The State Government's Community Renewal program will also be continued in 2007–08 with \$10.9 million in funding to continue work in each renewal area to:

- build the capacity of local residents and groups;
- address priorities identified at the local level;
- develop improved local infrastructure and amenities.

While the program does not specifically target social housing tenants, it brings many benefits across the broader community in renewal areas which includes direct benefits to social housing clients and the broader general public.

There are two renewal areas in the Pumicestone Electorate—Caboolture South and Caboolture East—and I have approved more than \$51 million in Community Renewal funding across these areas since 1998. I thank the Member for her continued support of this important initiative.