

**Question on Notice
No. 115
Asked on 14 February 2008**

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

QUESTION:

Does the State Government set aside priority housing for disabled veterans from the Commonwealth Public Housing Grants to States and, if so, what is the present position of this scheme?

ANSWER:

There is no priority housing set aside specifically for disabled veterans from the Commonwealth Public Housing Grants to States. However, people can apply for specific needs housing. Specific needs housing aims to assist people in most urgent housing need by offering them assistance ahead of other applicants when a property becomes available that meets their needs.

As applicants for specific needs housing are housed ahead of turn, other people on the wait list will have to wait longer for housing. Therefore, as the department has a responsibility to assist all applicants for social housing, it is essential to ensure that the circumstances of approved specific needs housing applicants are more serious and urgent.

Grounds for specific needs housing eligibility include cases where clients have a disability or medical condition, such as a disabled veteran, and have an urgent housing need as there are no other appropriate/accessible or affordable housing options available to them in the private market.

Applicants for specific needs housing must firstly meet the social housing eligibility criteria before being considered for Specific Needs Housing.

Applicants who apply for Specific Needs Housing on the grounds of a disability or medical condition are required to provide written verification from a health professional or support provider, stating the nature of the disability, indicating the applicant's specific requirements and why the current housing is inappropriate.

Under the One Social Housing System, people will be housed according to need.