

**Question on Notice
No. 1382
Asked on 7 October 2008**

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

QUESTION:

- (1) How many people live in public housing in Bundaberg have required modifications to the property to suit their disabilities?
- (2) Does the Department of Housing currently have an occupational therapist on staff in Bundaberg to assess clients' needs?

ANSWER:

- (1) In the Bundaberg State electorate:
 - During the 2006–07 financial year, 33 public housing dwellings were modified for clients with disabilities
 - During the 2007–08 financial year, 31 public housing dwellings were modified for clients with disabilities.
- (2) The Wide Bay-Burnett Area Office does not presently have an Occupational Therapist on site. Since May 2008, when the position was vacated the department has endeavoured to recruit a replacement OT without success.

OT services are provided by a visiting service. Since May, an OT has visited once every six weeks, for the duration of one week. During this time, urgent visits are prioritised. The adequacy of this service will continue to be closely monitored.

A permanent OT will be appointed when a suitably qualified applicant is found.