

**Question on Notice
No. 1722
Asked on 12 November 2008**

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

QUESTION:

With reference to the purchase of 15 motels at a cost of \$32m for crisis and emergency accommodation in Townsville, Mt Isa, Mackay, Gympie, Maryborough, Rockhampton, the Sunshine Coast and Brisbane-

- (1) How much is going to be incurred by his department for ongoing costs, including maintenance, general upkeep and support services for this type of housing?
- (2) Will he be purchasing any more motels for emergency accommodation?

ANSWER:

Since 2005, the department has acquired 19 motels across the State, 15 since January 2007¹. Of these 15 motels nominated in your question, 12 have been purchased under the Community-managed Housing – Studio Units program and three were purchased under the Public Housing program. Neither of these programs are crisis and emergency accommodation responses, although two of the 15 motels have been used for short-term emergency responses. (One of these motels is in Mackay and was used to assist with the floods earlier in 2008. Another motel is in Maryborough and is used to house the residents of a men's shelter destroyed by fire. These motels are not planned for use in the long-term as crisis and emergency accommodation).

A motel on the Gold Coast has been purchased under the Government's Responding to Homelessness program. Funding for the operations of that site is to be provided by the Department of Communities. The expected completion date for that site is March 2009.

- (1) The department conducts comprehensive condition assessments on all properties every three years. Based on these assessments, maintenance programs are developed and delivered for all social housing. It is not possible to project future costs but there is no reason to believe that these dwellings will cost more to maintain than any other dwellings in the portfolio.

Support services are not provided by the Department of Housing. Any clients requiring additional support are referred to the appropriate agencies that are funded to deliver those services.

- (2) The department may consider further purchases of motels if they meet client need. Any proposed purchase is subject to stringent assessment including value for money benchmarks.

¹ See Question on Notice No. 672.