

Question on Notice
No. 471
Asked on 15 April 2008

MR SEENEY asked the Minister for Health (MR ROBERTSON)-

QUESTION:

Given that Queensland health adheres to AS 4485 and should be conducting safety audits of Queensland Health workplaces—

- (1) Was Queensland Health accommodation on the Torres Strait Islands – Saibai, Boigu, Mabuiag, Badu, Horn, Murray, Darnley (Erub), Yorke (Masig), Coconut (Poruma), Bamaga, Thursday, Dauan, Stephen, Warraber and Yam prior to 1 February 2008 provided within the health compound and was each built to appropriate codes and standards for the locality, including (a) cyclone, wind loads, earthquake, etc., (b) physical security needs such as solid core doors, locks, security screens, intruder alarms, smoke alarms; monitored with community involvement, (c) environmental aspects such as heating, ventilation, air conditioning and emergency power, and (d) fully maintained?
- (2) Will he detail individually any instances where those standards were not met?
- (3) If accommodation on these islands did not meet these requirements prior to February 2008, when did they meet these requirements or when will they meet these requirements?

ANSWER:

- (1) The Department of Public Works would have built most properties in the Torres and would have complied with the Building Code of Australia (BCA) at the time of design and documentation. A practical completion certificate is not issued unless the work complies with the BCA as it stands at the time of design.
- (2) The exact nature of these issues, and where standards may not have been met, have been the subject of a number of reports that have previously been tabled in Parliament.
- (3) Queensland Health has been working with QBuild to ensure that all standards are met. All urgent safety requirements have been completed. Some work is still outstanding, but this relates to some lighting, air-conditioning and general maintenance issues, and is being undertaken as quickly as possible.