

**Question on Notice
No. 493
Asked on 16 April 2008**

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

QUESTION:

Since January 2008, how much has the Department of Housing spent on assisting Queenslanders and how many households have been assisted into social housing?

ANSWER:

Since 1 January 2008, the Department of Housing has expended \$228 million on assisting Queenslanders through capital works and maintenance on department-owned social housing, grants to community housing providers, lending products and headleasing properties from the private market. This means the department is on average spending around \$3 million every working day helping Queenslanders.

In the same period, the department assisted around 1,900 households into social housing, provided 4,626 bond loans at a cost of more than \$4.2 million and 414 rental grants totalling around \$158,000 to assist households in the private rental market.

In the Springwood electorate the department expended \$580,000 on construction and property acquisitions including the pre-commencement expenditure on a planned six-unit Women's Shelter programmed under the 2007–08 Community Housing Crisis Accommodation Program.

Additionally, during this time a further 31 households in the Springwood electorate were provided with other housing assistance totalling nearly \$34,000 such as bond loans. This assistance is targeted at helping people maintain tenancies in the private rental market and is becoming more and more important in an environment of increasing private rental costs, which in turn is putting more and more pressure on the social housing sector.

In terms of the social housing sector overall, the department remains committed to improving the lives of individuals and families by providing access to appropriate housing solutions and contributing to the sustainability of communities across Queensland. However, the demand for assistance continues to increase at a faster pace than the resources available to meet this demand. The department is working closely with Federal Government agencies to develop a national rental affordability scheme that will assist to increase the supply of affordable private rental properties for people in housing need.

The department is also continuing to investigate a range of assistance products to offer alternatives to eligible clients at the time they seek assistance, and when they exit social housing and transition to the private market.