

**Question on Notice**  
**No. 590**  
**Asked on 17 April 2008**

MR MALONE 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) Did 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 meet the following standards (a) lighting - internally and externally - provided and controlled from within the accommodation as per AS 1158.1 and AS 1680.2.0 and 2.1, (b) security screens on doors and windows provided and conforming to the relevant Australian Standards AS 3201, AS 2803 and AS 4145, (c) adequate fencing to protect privacy and provide security, (d) an appropriate radio, telephone (static and mobile) and tele-pagers available and functioning as well as back up systems for emergencies and (e) appropriate and functioning smoke alarm, fire extinguishers and fire blankets, as well as an emergency management plan and maintenance schedule that complied with relevant Australian Standards in place?
- (2) Will he detail individually any instances in which 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.