

**Question on Notice
No. 1947
Asked on 26 November 2009**

MRS ATTWOOD asked the Minister for Public Works and Information and Communication Technology (MR SCHWARTEN)-

QUESTION:

Will the Minister advise details of the program to improve and upgrade the security and safety features of government employee housing?

ANSWER:

The Government Employee Housing Scheme's Policy and Conduct documentation provides departments with advice on the security requirements for the Government's employee housing portfolio.

The Government has provided funding for a security audit to be undertaken of all government employee housing in Indigenous communities.

The audit involved 463 units of employee housing across 30 mainland and island communities and was completed on 1 September 2009. Each residence was assessed against a new security standard that was specifically developed for employee housing in Indigenous communities.

The new security standard requirements mainly involve the provision of physical security measures such as the installation of security screening to all the windows of the residences and to the complete window not just the opening section. Security screen doors will now be triple locked as opposed to the single locked doors and motion activated lights will be installed at each entry point to deter possible perpetrators from accessing residences. Areas of concealment at each entry point will be removed through the trimming or removal of vegetation. Additional passive security through the installation of locks to external storage areas will also be employed to protect personal belongings and to remove the incentive for perpetrators to come on to the site. Security to external power boxes is also being strengthened through the installation of locks to remove any interference to the power supply to the residence.

As the new security requirements are additional to the existing requirements, most residences will require some level of work to make them compliant with the new standard. The audit has identified a total of \$1.73 million in required works.

The Department of Public Works has programmed the security works to be undertaken in conjunction with other maintenance works. It is anticipated that all security works will be complete by June 2010.