

Question on Notice

No. 401

Asked on 24 March 2011

MR MALONE asked the Minister for Community Services and Housing and Minister for Women (MS STRUTHERS)—

QUESTION

With reference to social housing in Goodna, Inala, Gladstone and Mundingburra—

- (1) How many people were on the social housing waiting list as at 1 July 2010 and 24 March 2011 (listed separately by location)?
- (2) How many social housing units were (a) vacant and (b) occupied in each area as at 1 July 2010 and 24 March 2011?

ANSWER

(1) Please note the 'wait list' process of allocating social housing has not been used in Queensland since 2008. Eligible applicants are placed on the Housing Register according to their assessed level of housing need—very high, high, moderate, low—or as eligible for other forms of housing assistance. Clients on the Housing Register in the greatest need are matched to vacant properties that most suitably meet the needs of the household, as vacancies occur. This differs from using a 'wait list' where applicants are allocated on a wait-turn basis in the order of their application date, regardless of their housing need.

For reporting purposes, Housing Register data is only available as at the end of each month. The number of applicants on the Housing Register as at 30 June 2010 and 28 February 2011 were as follows:

Area	Number of Applicants as at 30 June 2010	Number of Applicants as at 28 February 2011
Goodna	60	63
Inala	319	309
Gladstone	247	292
Mundingburra	905	1,021

(2) Data on the number of vacant and occupied social housing properties for reporting purposes is also only available as at the end of each month.

(a) The number of social housing dwellings that were vacant in these areas as at 30 June 2010 and 28 February 2011 were as follows:

Area	Vacant Rental Dwellings as at 30 June 2010	Vacant Rental Dwellings as at 28 February 2011
Goodna	7	16
Inala	30	11
Gladstone	1	1
Mundingburra	1	1

When reading vacancy data, it should be noted the bulk of social housing vacancies occur due to social housing tenants leaving properties of their own volition. Other reasons for vacant properties include major upgrade works, minor upgrade works due to acquisition or fire damaged properties awaiting demolition. While these vacancies are unavoidable when managing a property portfolio, the Department of Communities has a rigorous vacancy management process in place to ensure vacancies are minimised.

Of the 16 vacant dwellings in Goodna, as at 28 February, 10 of these units in a complex in Spalding Street, Goodna were completely inundated by flood waters on 13 January. These units are currently uninhabitable and are awaiting repairs.

The 10 vacant dwellings in Goodna are the only flood affected social housing in these four areas that remain uninhabitable pending repairs.

The Member may also care to note the most recent figures reported by the Office of Economic and Statistical Research indicate the vacancy rate in Queensland's private residential sector is 4.2%; of the total 55,098 social housing dwellings owned and managed by the Department of Communities, only 938 were vacant as at 28 February 2011 which is a vacancy rate of 1.7%.

(b) The number of social housing dwellings that were occupied in these areas as at 30 June 2010 and 28 February 2011 were as follows:

Area	Occupied Rental Dwellings as at 30 June 2010	Occupied Rental Dwellings as at 28 February 2011
Goodna	412	414
Inala	1,784	1,790
Gladstone	98	106
Mundingburra	61	68