

Question on Notice
No. 598
Asked on 10 May 2011

MR MESSENGER asked the Premier and Minister for Reconstruction (MS BLIGH)—

With reference to the Premier's disaster relief fund —

Will the Premier (a) guarantee that no public monies donated for victims have been spent on repairing roads and other government infrastructure and (b) report separately on an electorate by electorate basis the total (i) amount of money received by victims, (ii) number of victims who have been given official payments and (iii) number of people who have applied for, but were denied payments?

ANSWER:

Assistance from the Premier's Disaster Relief Appeal (the appeal) is being provided to individuals and families to help them to recover from the effects of the tragic recent natural disasters.

No money donated to the appeal will be used to repair roads or other government infrastructure.

I am committed to ensuring that all of the money donated to the appeal, and any interest, goes to people who have suffered as a result of disasters.

The data that the Member has requested is not readily available on an electorate by electorate basis from the agencies involved in assessing claims, distributing funds, and hearing appeals (Australian Government – Centrelink and Queensland Government – Department of Communities).

It would not be practical or reasonable to divert the resources of these agencies to obtain this information for all electorates.

However, please find the following data in relation to the electorate of Burnett, as at the date of the question.

Emergency Assistance Payments (Round 1)

The latest data provided by the Australian Government agency involved in assessing the applications (Centrelink) indicates that 55 applications from the Burnett Electorate had been assessed as at the date of the question.

Of these applications, 32 have been paid and the remainder declined. All declined applicants are invited to request a review of the original decision by providing a statutory declaration and any additional information supporting the application.

As at 6 June 2011, 2 appeal requests had been received by the Department of Communities with 1 approved and 1 appeal with ongoing assessment.

Structural Damage – Destroyed and Damaged Homes (Rounds 2 & 3)

As at 6 June 2011, there had been no applications for assistance under the *Structural Damage Assistance – Destroyed Home* and one application for assistance under the *Structural Damage Assistance – Damaged Home* funding round from residents of this electorate. This applicant has received an initial \$5,000 payment and will receive a further contents top-up payment of \$10,000. The Department of Communities is waiting to receive further information from the applicant in order to assess eligibility for a potential final payment of up to \$75,000.