

**Question on Notice
No. 65
Asked on 13 February 2014**

MRS CUNNINGHAM asked the Minister for Housing and Public Works (MR MANDER)-

QUESTION:

Under the NRAS scheme, 263 dwellings have been allocated for Gladstone and as these are built in co-operation with Queensland Housing, will the Minister ensure dwellings will have disability access?

ANSWER:

The National Rental Affordability Scheme (NRAS) is a key part of our Housing 2020 vision.

While the Queensland Government, through the Department of Housing and Public Works, makes recommendations to the Australian Government, decisions under NRAS are made by the Australian Government, through the Department of Social Services delegate.

The requirements for dwellings and assessment criteria are established under the National Rental Affordability Scheme Regulation 2008. This regulation is managed by the Australian Government through the Department of Social Services.

While full accessibility for people with a disability is desirable and is encouraged by the State, it is not a requirement for proposed dwellings to be approved for development under NRAS.

Applications that demonstrate dwellings are fully accessible and meet the higher levels of the Livable Housing Design Guildelines are prioritised, but they must also meet a number of other criteria. These include that the dwellings are affordable, well located in relation to services and the project has finance and can be built within the required time.

If an NRAS application claims that it will deliver fully accessible homes and is approved by the Australian Government, they may place conditions on the development to ensure these claims are met. The Government will also ensure it meets the relevant Australian building codes through the certification process.