

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

Mrs Lambley to the Minister for Housing:

Housing and Room to Breathe Program

1. How many new Houses or dwellings has the NT Department of Housing completed since August 2016?
 2. How many new Staff or Employee houses or dwellings have been built since August 2016?
 3. How many houses or dwellings have been improved under the "Room to Breathe" housing program - as of 1st October 2017? Provide details of work that has been completed and work that has commenced during this period?
 4. Why has the Department of Housing been unable to recruit to all the new positions created under the Remote Housing Program?
 5. What work has been completed in improving or building new housing in NT Remote Communities since August 2016 to 1st October 2017?
 6. Has the NT Government secured the funding shortfall for the 10 year \$1.1 billion remote housing program? Please provide details.
 7. Exactly what is the funding shortfall for this program over the next 10 years?
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1. How many new houses or dwellings has the NT Department of Housing completed since August 2016?

The Department of Housing and Community Development has completed 65 new builds/replacements under the National Partnership on Remote Housing for the period since 1 September 2016 to 30 September 2017.

2. How many new Staff or Employee houses or dwellings have been built since August 2016?

There has been 18 new Government Employee Housing dwellings completed for the period 1 September 2016 to 30 September 2017.

3. How many houses or dwellings have been improved under the "Room to Breathe" housing program - as of 1st October 2017? Provide details of work that has been completed and work that has commenced during this period?

Under the Room to Breathe Early Works program, 45 homes in 10 communities (Areyonga, Beswick, Bullman, Weemol, Engawala, Hermannsburg, Kintore, Milikapiti, Numbulwar and Titjikala) have had improvement works completed as at 30 September 2017. Overall, a total of an additional 26 bedrooms and 22 additional living spaces have been achieved.

Room to Breathe Early Works have commenced on 76 homes in the communities of Gapuwiyak, Ampilatwatja, Milyakburra, Lajamanu, Wurrimiyanga, Warruwi, Wadeye, Ramingining, Kybrook Farm, Ali Curung, Ngukurr and Maningrida. An additional 50 bedrooms and 50 additional living spaces will be achieved.

4. Why has the Department of Housing been unable to recruit to all the new positions created under the Remote Housing Program?

The Remote Program Delivery Office was established in May 2017 to deliver the Northern Territory Government's 10 year \$1.1 billion remote housing program, which was formalised as part of the 2017-18 Budget which commenced on 1 July 2017.

All new positions created under the remote housing program have been undergoing assessment through the Northern Territory Public Sector's Job Evaluation System. The Department of Housing and Community Development has been incrementally assessing the new roles. As the roles are evaluated through the Job Evaluation System process, active recruitment commences, with positions being advertised on the Northern Territory Government Employment Opportunities Online website.

Ensuring that the Department of Housing and Community Development recruits the right people, with the right skills to deliver a significant housing program in a remote Northern Territory context, is crucial.

5. What work has been completed in improving or building new housing in NT Remote Communities since August 2016 to 1st October 2017?

For the period 1 September 2016 to 30 September 2017, the following works have been completed:

- National Partnership on Remote Housing – 65 remote housing new builds/replacement;
 - Remote Australia Strategy – 435 remote housing upgrades completed; and
 - Government Employee Housing – 18 new builds completed.
6. Has the NT Government secured the funding shortfall for the 10 year \$1.1 billion remote housing program? Please provide details.

As per the Northern Territory 2017-18 Budget overview, the 2017-18 Budget delivers a \$1.1 billion, 10 year Remote Housing Investment Package to improve housing, create jobs and restore local decision making to the bush through.

7. Exactly what is the funding shortfall for this program over the next 10 years?

Please refer to the response to Question 6.
