

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, HOUSING, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND
INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2010-11 Additional Estimates Hearings

Outcome Number: 2 – Housing

Question No: 48

Topic: Housing affected by Natural Disasters

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Payne asked: How many properties in Queensland, Victoria and New South Wales have been affected by recent natural disasters to the extent of being uninhabitable? Can the department break this down by geographical area within those states? Does the department have costs, or estimates, of the funding and time that will be required to repair these houses?

Answer:

New South Wales

No social housing properties have been identified as being uninhabitable due to the floods.

Victoria

The Victorian Department of Human Services has advised that the following social housing properties were affected by the floods:

Loddon Mallee Region

- 40 properties affected
- Estimated cost of \$288,725.

Southern Metropolitan Region

- 68 properties affected
- All properties have been inspected and repairs are underway.
- Estimated cost of \$296,000.

Gippsland

- 7 properties affected in Warragul
- Estimated cost of \$13,000.

Grampians

- 3 properties affected in Creswick
- Actual cost of \$5,111.04

Victoria has not confirmed how many of these properties are uninhabitable. Victoria has advised that immediate repairs have been undertaken where possible and a number of tenants have returned.

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Queensland Floods

The most recent advice from the Queensland Department of Communities is that assessments have identified approximately 66 social housing dwellings sustaining damage in excess of \$50,000 which will cost in the vicinity of \$6.3 million to repair. The Department is continuing to assess some severely impacted dwellings on a case-by-case basis. Repairs may take up to four months or more. The location of these dwellings is as follows:

Cherbourg -6 dwellings
Theodore – 1 dwelling
Brisbane – 5 dwellings
Emerald – 13 dwellings
Ipswich – 39 dwellings
Caboolture – 1 dwelling
Toowoomba – 1 dwelling

Cyclone Yasi: Queensland Department of Communities has advised that as at 8 March 2011, initial assessments have identified that no social housing dwellings sustained damage in excess of \$50,000. However, one Indigenous Community Housing Organisation dwelling (not owned by the Queensland Government) in Kennedy, and one Deed of Grant in Trust dwelling on Palm Island sustained significant damage. Repairs here will also take up to four months.

The Commonwealth Government contributes to the cost of repairs through the Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements. Responsibility for repairs rests with state and territory governments.