



Building Newsflash

Supported Accommodation Services Sprinkler Grant

Purpose

A conditional grant is available from the Department of Housing for level 3 supported accommodation providers, as defined by the *Residential Services (Accreditation) Act 2002*, for the purpose of installing sprinkler systems in supported accommodation buildings.

The conditional grant will assist service providers to meet the costs associated with the compliance requirements of the Fire Safety Standard Part 14, of the Queensland Development Code (as mandated by the *Building Act 1975*) to accommodate people defined as having an evacuation impairment.

Financial Assistance Available

- A subsidy of 75% of the quoted cost (inclusive of GST) of installing a sprinkler system is available to level 3 service providers up to a maximum of \$70,000.
- The grant amount applies to an entire service and is not per building.
- The grant product will be available until 31 March 2007, however, applications may be made after that time (up to 30 September 2007) if the provider has been granted an extension to comply with fire safety requirements by their local council.

Eligibility Criteria

The grant is available to level 3 service providers who meet the following criteria:

- Applied for registration and accreditation to operate as a level 3 service as required by the *Residential Services (Accreditation) Act 2002*.
- Compliant with the Fire Safety Standard Part 14, of the Queensland Development Code, with the exception of accommodating residents with an evacuation impairment.
- Already accommodate or are willing to commit to accommodate residents with an evacuation impairment.
- The service has been operating prior to 30 June 2005.
- Funding received under the existing Department of Housing financial assistance package for building and fire safety improvements has been expended or the service provider is willing to use any unexpended funds towards the cost of installing a sprinkler system.
- The structure of the building must be suitable to fit a sprinkler system e.g. adequate water supply, age of building.

Terms and Conditions of the Grant

Security over conditional grant

- A mortgage will be taken over the property, subject to the conditions of the grant agreement.
- The mortgage will be released upon compliance with the conditions of the grant agreement.

Penalties for non-compliance

The service provider will be required to repay the full amount of the grant to the Department of Housing if:

- The service is sold or changes use and no longer accommodates residents with an evacuation impairment, within three years of receiving the grant. However, if the new provider agrees to assume responsibility for the debt and is offering the same service, then the previous provider will not be required to repay the grant.
- The sprinkler system is not maintained in a good working order that meets the requirements of a Queensland Fire and Rescue Service inspection, for three years from the receipt of the grant.

Commitment to the industry

On an annual basis, service providers who have received the conditional grant will be required to complete a statutory declaration to confirm their ongoing commitment to the following:

- Offer accommodation to residents with an evacuation impairment
- Maintain the service's sprinkler system
- Maintain the service's certificate of registration and accreditation (if accreditation has been received) to operate a level 3 supported accommodation service.

Service providers will also be required on an annual basis to:

- Provide copies of the service's certificate of registration and accreditation (if accreditation has been received).
- Provide a copy of the service's fire safety inspection report. This report is given to providers by Queensland Fire and Rescue Service and includes findings of the inspection.

Applications for the Grant

The Residential Services Industry Supported Accommodation Services Sprinkler Grant Application Form is available from the Department of Housing and will need to be completed and provided with the following documentation:

- Two independent written quotations by Queensland Building Services Authority registered contractors on the cost of installing a sprinkler system. Both quotes must specify the cost of installation based on the type of water supply, such as reticulated or tank water.
- A notice from the relevant local government stating:
 - status of compliance
 - number of existing residents with an evacuation impairment
 - number of residents with an evacuation impairment that could be accommodated if a sprinkler system was fitted.
- A copy of the registration certificate to operate as a level 3 supported accommodation service or evidence of application to operate the service from the Residential Services Accreditation Branch. If the provider has received accreditation, then a copy of the accreditation certificate must also be provided.

Lodgement of application

Applications for financial assistance can be mailed to:

Housing Loans
Queensland Department of Housing
GPO Box 690
Brisbane Qld 4001

Assessment of application

The Department may contact the applicant if further information is required in order to process their application.

The applicant will be informed in writing of their eligibility for grant funding.

Contact Details

For further information about the grant or to obtain a copy of the Residential Services Industry Supported Accommodation Services Sprinkler Grant Application Form, contact the Department of Housing on:

Tel: 1300 654 322
Fax: (07) 3225 1937
E-mail rsifinance@housing.qld.gov.au

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