



Question 584 for oral reply

**MINISTRY FOR HUMAN SETTLEMENTS  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**QUESTION FOR ORAL REPLY ON 4 NOVEMBER 2015**

**QUESTION NO.: 584**

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**Ms C Dudley (ACDP) to ask the Minister of Human Settlements:**

(a) Why has the new National Special Needs Housing Programme not been approved and (b) what are the relevant details of the reasons why the programme has not been approved yet? NO4660E

**REPLY:**

Let me preface my reply by indicating that Special Needs Housing Programme refers to housing opportunities provided by approved and registered non-profit organisations (NPOs) for persons who, for a variety of reasons, are unable to live independently in normal housing or require assistance in terms of a safe, supportive and protected living environment and who typically need some level of care or protection be it on a permanent or temporary basis.

Further, this programme should not be confused with the assistance that our Department provides to people with disabilities. The draft National Housing Programme cater for the following categories of persons who have very little income or are dependent on social grants:

- Orphans and vulnerable children (OVC's);
- Older persons;
- Persons with physical disabilities;
- Persons with intellectual and psycho social disabilities;

- Victims of domestic abuse and similar crimes;
- The terminally ill and frail persons (including those infected by HIV AIDS);
- The homeless or destitute or those living on the street (including children);
- Parolees and persons released on probation;
- Other vulnerable people such as victims of serious crime and victims of human trafficking.

(a) & (b) The programme for Special Housing Needs has been developed and following a comprehensive and broad consultation process, which included all sector role players, the draft programme is yet to be subjected to the policy approval and decision-making process. The said decision-making process includes the legal requirement that the Minister of Human Settlements must consult with the Members of the Executive Council (MEC) of the Nine Provincial Governments responsible for Human Settlements and the South African local Government Association (SALGA) before any new human settlements policy is approved and introduced. The Human Settlements MINMEC forum is utilised to facilitate this required consultation process and it is preceded by an assessment of the policy proposals at Technical Human Settlements MINMEC.