

**Question on Notice
No. 81
Asked on Wednesday, 5 February 2020**

MR D LAST ASKED MINISTER FOR HOUSING AND PUBLIC WORKS; MINISTER FOR DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY; MINISTER FOR SPORT (HON M DE BRENNI)

With reference to the changes to the mechanical services licensing framework which were, as stated by the Chief of Staff, implemented to address risks posed by works in hospitals and shopping centres—

Will the Minister advise (a) why the associated increase in licencing fees of over 260 percent was passed on to Queensland workers who do not undertake work on those systems and (b) why, as is the case with other professions including electricians, a minimum threshold was not introduced to ensure Queensland families were not affected by this massive increase in costs to contractors?

ANSWER

While I appreciate the Member's interest in the issue, it is incorrect to suggest there has been a 260 per cent increase in licensing fees for persons who do not undertake work on these systems.

This is a new licensing framework and only individuals or companies that carry out, or contract to carry out, mechanical services work are required to hold a mechanical services licence and pay the associated fees.

The licensing fees are comparable to other Queensland Building and Construction Commission licence classes.

I would also note for the Member that the mechanical services licence does not impact homeowners, as the framework targets high-risk buildings, such as health facilities and shopping centres. Further, the mechanical services licensing requirements do not cover class 1a buildings (i.e. single dwellings) and exclude work performed on single-head split systems under the value of \$3,300.

The safety of Queenslanders is paramount, and this new licence which regulates previously unregulated work, provides the necessary confidence to industry and consumers.