

9 July 2009

Methamphetamine sensors in state houses

Peseta Sam Lotu-iga's office has contacted you to enquire whether Housing New Zealand Corporation has considered installing methamphetamine detectors in state houses.

The average cost to test and decontaminate a house where methamphetamine has been made is approximately \$4,500. To date, the Corporation has had to demolish two houses due to the extent of methamphetamine contamination. These two demolitions have cost the Corporation approximately \$440,000.

The Corporation is aware of a number of products that detect the presence of ingredients used to make methamphetamine. These products are typically the size of a standard smoke detector and send a silent signal to a monitoring company should fumes given off from ingredients be detected.

The Corporation has been approached by one company offering such a product. The quoted price to purchase and install a unit in one property is \$1395.00 GST inclusive. Each alarm is monitored by a private monitoring company at a cost of \$28.00 GST inclusive, per month.

Exclusive of monitoring, the cost to buy and install detectors in every Corporation house would amount to over \$90 million.

While the number of P labs found in state houses is not yet available for the year to June 2009, between March 2004 and June 2008 there were 24 Corporation properties tested and found to have methamphetamine contamination.

The Corporation has not pursued the matter of detectors further.

The Corporation relies on routine property inspections to identify signs of potential P labs and works closely with the police if a laboratory is suspected.



Greg Groufsky
Director Government Relations

Housing New Zealand Corporation