

Lives threatened by hostel fire

Updated February 28, 2009 13:05:00

The Department for Child Protection has praised the way its staff handled a fire at an emergency accommodation facility in Bedford overnight.

The blaze started just after midnight and caused about a million dollars damage to the Bedford Hostel on Grand Promenade.

Authorities are investigating whether it was deliberately lit.

Eight children and three staff members were inside the building but escaped before fire crews arrived.

The department's director general Terry Murphy says the lives of the children were at risk and although they are shaken, there are no injuries.

"Our staff behaved magnificently and I'm told they got one young person out in the nick of time," he said.

"So it's been a devastating event for those young people and the staff and very disappointing for the department."

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First posted February 28, 2009 11:33:00



PHOTO: [Lives were under threat from a fire which destroyed a hostel in Bedford.](#)

MAP: [Bedford 6052](#)