

PUBLIC AND SOCIAL HOUSING

**1004. Hon STEVE MARTIN to the minister representing the Minister for Housing:**

I refer to public and social housing in Western Australia.

- (1) Can the minister provide the total number of the following in Western Australia, as of the nearest available date —
  - (a) social houses; and
  - (b) public houses?
- (2) How many public houses are currently vacant?
- (3) How many applications, representing how many individuals, are there currently for the —
  - (a) public housing waitlist; and
  - (b) priority public housing waitlist?

**Hon MATTHEW SWINBOURN replied:**

I thank the member for some notice of the question. I answer on behalf of the Minister for Agriculture and Food. The following information has been provided by the Minister for Housing.

- (1) Since the Cook government's record investment of \$2.6 billion into social housing and homelessness measures, the state government has added more than 1 500 homes, with a further 1 000 under contract or construction. Some of these properties may not be reflected in this data as the data often takes time to be transferred wholly into the Department of Communities' systems across regional offices.  
As at 31 July, there were 43 795 social houses, of which 36 383 are public houses.
- (2) The vacancy number is always a single-point-in-time number that fluctuates for a range of reasons, including maintenance, refurbishments and redevelopments waiting for re-let. People move in and out of public housing properties for a range of reasons, including moving into aged care or alternative accommodation, changes in family composition or other life circumstances. If maintenance is undertaken to return a property to service, it is undertaken so it can be re-let in clean, safe and working order.  
As at 31 July 2023, 1 395 returning properties were in the process of either being re-let to people on the public housing waitlist or returning to stock after the completion of refurbishment or maintenance, to be allocated to people on the public housing waitlist. As at 31 July 2023, 426 non-returning properties were undergoing further assessment and may be considered for redevelopment.
- (3) As at 31 July 2023, the public waitlist fell to 18 984 applications statewide, representing 33 943 people. This includes 4 768 priority applications, representing 9 447 people.