

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN ABORIGINAL CHILD HEALTH SURVEY

5950. Hon Shelley Archer to the Minister for Local Government representing the Minister for Housing and Works

I refer the Minister to the Report on the Western Australian Aboriginal Child Health Survey, carried out by the Kulunga Research Network at the Telethon Institute for Child Health Research. I draw the Minister's attention to Recommendation 17 of the Report, namely, 'Continue and extend the implementation of public housing policies that seek to increase the proportion of Indigenous people who own their own home', and I ask -

Will the Minister advise the House what progress has been made in respect of this recommendation?

Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH replied:

The State Government is committed to providing more opportunities for Indigenous West Australians to own their own home. Significant support is offered through the Aboriginal Home Ownership Scheme. Since its inception the Aboriginal Home Ownership Scheme has provided more than \$73 million to assist more than 640 Aboriginal Western Australians into home ownership. Eligibility for this scheme was essentially linked to public housing eligibility. To further assist Aboriginal families, the income eligibility criteria for the scheme has recently been increased. Families earning up to \$80,000, couples earning up to \$70,000 and singles earning up to \$50,000 can now qualify for shared ownership assistance. These increased limits will enable more Aboriginal families to build assets and become financially self sufficient through entering home ownership. Several Aboriginal families who purchased a property more than five years ago would have seen their properties almost double in value.

In addition to the Aboriginal Home Ownership Scheme, the Department through Keystart also provide other loan products that have assisted Aboriginal people into home ownership. These include the Good Start shared equity scheme for public rental housing tenants and applicants, the First Start shared equity scheme for first homebuyers and the standard Keystart Low Deposit loan.

The Department is also working with the Department of Indigenous Affairs, the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA) and Indigenous Business Australia (IBA Homes) in regard to Home Ownership on Indigenous Land (HOIL) and the legislative changes to allow this to happen on Aboriginal Lands Trust land. The Department is also working with Aboriginal people to increase home ownership through partnerships with prescribed body corporates or trusts for recipients of royalty payments such as Gumala Aboriginal Corporation in the Pilbara. Under this arrangement the home loan package will consist of a no interest loan from Gumala and a Keystart loan to purchase houses on the private market. Similar discussions are occurring in Kununurra.