

PUBLIC HOUSING, ABORIGINAL FAMILIES

**50. Hon DERRICK TOMLINSON to the Minister for Housing:**

Is the minister aware of a claim made by Joanne Walsh from the Tenants Advice Service that in the Midland area of Perth about 280 Aboriginal families, with an average of three children, are permanently locked out of public housing? If the minister is aware of that claim, has its veracity been checked and can he advise how many Aboriginal families in the Midland area are permanently locked out of public housing?

**Hon TOM STEPHENS replied:**

I am not aware of the specific claim of the Tenants Advice Service in reference to the Midland area. I have attended a Nyoongah housing summit at which the person of whom the member has spoken described a very large housing problem facing the Aboriginal community. They are issues that are correctly described as being critical. The Ministry of Housing policy has a number of hurdles for applicants to have to jump before they go onto the waiting list for housing. If applicants have a substantial debt or damage bills that they are not tackling, they are locked out of the waiting list unless they commit to making a contribution based on their capacity to pay the debt that has previously been incurred. I appreciate the member's genuine concern. I will ask the Ministry of Housing to look at the specifics and see what I can do to improve the circumstances to which the member has referred.