

HOMELESSNESS — PREGNANT WOMEN

375. Ms M.J. DAVIES to the Minister for Community Services:

I have a supplementary question. I thank the minister. One hundred women without an address is seriously concerning. Is there a specific program or support service that the government offers that women can access, given their vulnerability as they go into hospital potentially with the risk of losing their child?

Ms S.F. McGURK replied:

I note that the member has not referred to the authority for the information that she has given to us today, so I would urge her to come to the Department of Communities through my office to give that information so that we can give proper support to those women and their families as required. It is important to note that extensive services are available for people throughout the state, and that includes in regional areas. Whether those women are pregnant, or have or do not have children, quite a lot of work is done to ensure that there is stable accommodation and, importantly, proper supports. In fact, the Department of Communities is best placed to do that now, knowing that, together, child protection services and the Department of Housing give support to people who are in public housing or are looking for public housing. On behalf of both the Department of Communities and the Department of Health, I am surprised that the Leader of the Opposition talks about those numbers and I would urge her to seek that those people get in touch with the Department of Communities district officers or to give me some of that detail through my office so that we can deal with those issues a bit more constructively than in the Parliament.