

AGED ACCOMMODATION UNITS IN MARINE TERRACE, BUSSELTON

1096. Hon BARRY HOUSE to the Minister for Housing and Works:

I had given notice of a question to the Minister for Education and Training today but he is apparently uncontactable. Therefore, I will have to ask that question tomorrow.

In asking this question, I appreciate that the minister may not have all the details. I would like him to give an undertaking to provide details in writing.

Hon Nick Griffiths: The member's question looks like it runs to two pages!

Hon BARRY HOUSE: It is not as bad as it looks.

I refer to a joint venture housing project for aged accommodation units in Marine Terrace, Busselton, which are managed by the Shire of Busselton.

- (1) Is the minister aware that there was a recent recommended rental increase of approximately \$10 a week for each unit?
- (2) Is the minister aware that his department's action has forced each resident to apply for commonwealth-funded rent assistance, which will be directly diverted to the Shire of Busselton rather than being used for its intended purpose, which is to assist the residents to pay their rent?
- (3) Will the minister inquire into the matter and give consideration to at least phasing in the rental increase to ease the burden on residents?

Hon NICK GRIFFITHS replied:

- (1)-(3) I thank the member for raising this issue. The member's question is somewhat detailed, so I will provide him with further details in due course. I am aware of the joint venture arrangements. It has been the practice for some time that the appropriate amount of rental has not been charged to the tenants. When I say the appropriate amount of rental, I am advised that the rent received was not sufficient to maintain the units and undertake other tasks to the extent that is reasonably required. I have given the matter consideration relatively recently, but not all that recently to the extent that I can remember the precise details. I have communicated with the Shire of Busselton. I will provide the member with a detailed answer by correspondence shortly.