

HOMELESSNESS, MINISTERIAL TASK FORCE MEMBERSHIP

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

I refer to the state homelessness strategy, and ask -

- (1) How were members of the ministerial task force chosen?
- (2) How much will it cost?
- (3) Where is that money coming from? In other words, which departments are funding that strategy?

**Hon TOM STEPHENS replied:**

- (1)-(3) The selection of the chairperson of the homelessness task force was my own - a Mr Tony Pietropiccolo, the state president of the Western Australian Council of Social Service. He is also the executive director of Centrecare.

Hon Peter Foss interjected.

The PRESIDENT: Order! There are no supplementary questions. The minister is trying very hard to answer the question.

Hon TOM STEPHENS: The chairperson of that task force made recommendations for the other members of the task force to me and to my colleague the Minister for Community Development, Hon Sheila McHale. My colleague and I took those recommendations to Cabinet as joint recommendations, and my cabinet colleagues agreed. There was some discussion between some of the players from the non-government agencies and me, but in the end the recommendation by the chairman was paramount in our final recommendation to Cabinet.

The cost of the task force will be worn largely by the two departments - the Department of Community Development and the Department of Housing and Works. There is some in-kind contribution from the office of housing policy to make available facilities for the work of that task force, and the Department of Community Development will release some personnel, which will effectively become its contribution to the work of that task force. I am pleased to hear that the member is interested in the work of that task force - it is important work; it is the fulfilment of a pre-election commitment that the Opposition made, if memory serves me correctly, on the recommendation of Hon Ken Travers. I am happy to have acted upon the pre-election commitment, and that task force will deliver a recommendation to -

Hon Barry House: What was the cost?

The PRESIDENT: Order! There is no supplementary question. The minister has probably finished his answer.

Hon TOM STEPHENS: The total cost, at least to my own agency, will be about \$180 000. That is the anticipated contribution that my department will have to make, but I will ensure that the precise figure is made available by way of written communication.