

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING — KIMBERLEY ZONE — ASBESTOS

2387. Ms J. Farrer to the Minister for Housing:

I refer to the fact that the Department of Housing regards houses containing asbestos as safe and does not consider asbestos a valid reason for someone on the Homeswest waitlist to refuse a property, and I ask:

- (a) how many Department of Housing properties in the Kimberley contain asbestos;
- (b) at what level of damage to a property does the Department of Housing consider a house containing asbestos unsafe;
- (c) how frequently are properties containing asbestos inspected to ensure the material does not pose a threat to the tenants;
- (d) are there any plans to replace public housing stock that contains asbestos; and
- (e) if yes to (d) how many properties will be replaced and what money has been allocated to this project over the forward estimates?

Mr W.R. Marmion replied:

The Department of Housing advises:

- (a) Since 2008 the Department has reduced the number of properties with asbestos across the State by 42%. In the Kimberley there are currently 654.
- (b) Any damage to asbestos sheeting or products containing asbestos containing material would raise safety concerns and prompt immediate remedial action.
- (c) Properties are inspected annually.
- (d) The Department has ongoing planned maintenance and asset management programs to manage and reduce the number of properties that contain asbestos containing material.
- (e) The Department reviews the condition of properties listed on its asbestos register on an annual basis with the objective of formulating a replacement program, however, the Department is not in a position to quote an approximate number of properties that will be replaced due to the number of factors that impact on the calculation.

A minimum of \$3.8 million in funding has been allocated for 2014–15.