

HOUSING — AFFORDABILITY — REGIONS

**293. Ms M.J. DAVIES to the Minister for Housing:**

I refer to Tiffany Dixon, a 22-year-old childcare worker in Kununurra who was forced to live in her car and then in a hotel to keep her job due to a lack of housing, and to the concerns raised with me by the Regional Chambers of Commerce and Industry of WA last week that a shortage of childcare workers is preventing its members from attracting and retaining staff across the state. Why has the minister's government failed to put measures in place to ensure that essential workers like Tiffany have access to affordable housing in regional WA?

**Mr J.N. CAREY replied:**

I thank the member for the question. In fact, under this government, we are seeing an extraordinary growth in housing supply in Western Australia. As I have already said in Parliament, we have seen 24 000 building approvals in the last 12 months, and that is 70 per cent growth. That has been facilitated by our building bonus grant. That is enabling thousands of Western Australians to own their first home. We have also increased the borrowing limit of Keystart and increased the income thresholds, which has also meant a large number of Western Australians owning their first home. This is also reflected in the regions, where 3 344 new properties have been approved for construction in regional Western Australia. If we look at the increases, we see that, for example, in Albany, there has been a 110 per cent increase; in Esperance, a 51 per cent increase; in Geraldton, a 100 per cent increase; in Broome, a 145 per cent increase; and in Karratha, a 470 per cent increase. Across Western Australia, we will see an increase in housing supply. They are extraordinary numbers. When we listen to the Real Estate Institute of Western Australia, it also makes it very clear that as those properties come online across regional Western Australia and in metropolitan Perth, we will see relief in the Perth rental market. As new home owners leave their rental properties and go into new homes, we will see that relief in the market.