

HOMESWEST, RENTAL HOMES FOR ABORIGINES

1098. Hon DERRICK TOMLINSON to the Minister for Housing and Works:

- (1) How many rental homes beyond the mainstream program are provided for Aboriginal people by Homeswest?
- (2) Of those rental homes, how many are located in the Perth metropolitan region and how many in each of the non-metropolitan Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission regions?
- (3) Of the total number of rental homes, how many require major repairs, how many require replacement and what is the estimated cost of those repairs and replacements?
- (4) How many more rental homes are needed to meet the known demands for housing for Aboriginal people?

Hon NICK GRIFFITHS replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question.

I have been advised that -

- (1) There are 7 019 properties provided for Aboriginal people by the Department of Housing and Works. There are 2 509 Aboriginal properties, 1 115 remote Aboriginal villages and there are an estimated 3 395 Aboriginal tenants in mainstream housing.
- (2) The Department of Housing and Works is unable to provide a breakdown of this information by ATSIC regions without considerable effort. The honourable member may wish to put that question on notice, or I can correspond with him when that information is provided, if he wishes to pursue it.
- (3) The Department of Housing and Works has a comprehensive maintenance program that includes the day-to-day vacated planning program and improvement programs. To complement these programs, the department's properties are also upgraded, replaced or refurbished through the stock replacement, refurbishment or new living programs. Designated Aboriginal housing properties are included in all of these programs.
- (4) There are currently 13 528 applicants on the waiting list, of which 1 882 had declared themselves to be of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent. The overall program for 2003-04 is 1 709 commencements.