

SENIORS HOUSING — CAPEL

469. Ms M.J. DAVIES to the Minister for Regional Development:

I note the state government funded seniors housing at West Road —

The SPEAKER: Member for Albany, I call you to order for the first time. Can the member repeat her question please?

Ms M.J. DAVIES: I note the state government-funded seniors housing at West Road in Capel was recently opened providing much needed seniors accommodation in the south west. Can the minister provide me with an update on this and other aged-care and community projects in regional Western Australia?

Mr B.J. GRYLLS replied:

Seniors housing is vitally important. It is a core role for government to ensure that the older members of the community who have contributed so much can, in their later years, have access to quality affordable housing, and the Liberal–National government has made it a priority. I thank the member for Central Wheatbelt for the question. Some of those projects are happening in her area. The one we are talking about today on West Road in Capel might be in the seat of the member for Collie–Preston.

The Regional Development Council Action Agenda Funding Scheme allocated \$21.5 million of royalties for regions to aged-care housing projects. Of that, \$1.9 million was made available to Access Housing to build 17 two-bedroom villas in Capel. The total cost of the project was \$3.3 million, so it was well leveraged from \$1.9 million of state government investment up to \$3.3 million. The seat of Collie–Preston now has 17 new two-bedroom villas for aged care. The member for Central Wheatbelt has done more to provide aged-care housing in the seat of Collie–Preston than has the member for Collie–Preston. It is a good thing that we have focused on this area. The villas were completed in June this year. Of the 17 tenancies, eight are from the Shire of Capel and the rest are from other south west areas including Eaton and Busselton—so there is a regional nature to the project. These villas are being rented at 75 per cent or under the market rental rate ensuring that seniors have access affordable housing in their community. We are really trying to drive the cost of seniors housing below market rental rates, which is absolutely vital for the cost-of-living support for seniors in the south west region.

Access Housing has done a really good job. The units are of an exceptionally high standard with five-star energy ratings and good design access for mobility and disability. An important aspect of this government’s policy in building in regional Western Australia centres on aged care. Another project in the member for Albany’s electorate includes an eight-bed respite centre adjacent to the new \$160 million Albany Health Campus—that is \$4.2 million of government funding going into the member for Albany’s electorate. In the member for Geraldton’s electorate, we provided a 20-bed high-care wing at the Hillcrest residential care facility in Geraldton. In Northam, in the seat of the member for Central Wheatbelt, we are building at the Killara Place Day Respite Centre, which I visited with the member for Central Wheatbelt a month or so ago. That project is nearly completed ensuring that people in need of respite care in Northam and the surrounding wheatbelt area get the care they need. In Kellerberrin, we are expanding the Dryandra Hostel with a 26-bed facility. In Tambellup, we are constructing six two-bedroom homes for seniors. In Moora, in the electorate of the member for Moore, we are providing six new beds—four low care and two respite—at the Moora Frail Aged Lodge. The Liberal–National government is doing a good job of providing aged support in the electorate of the member for Albany.

Mr P.B. Watson: It did not do you too much good in the election.

Mr B.J. GRYLLS: Politics is not just about that. It is about getting stuff done like providing housing to aged people in the community. Clearly, the Labor Party focused only on getting elected because it never fixed any of these projects. The Labor Party has proved it is very good at getting elected, but the Liberal–National government is good at getting stuff done. At Hawthorn House in Albany, we have built dementia care services for that area. Across the board in the southern part of the state, the Liberal–National government has focused hard on aged care in the community.