

QUESTION ON NOTICE 5953 — HOUSING — INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES

6303. Hon Shelley Archer to the Minister for Local Government representing the Minister for Housing and Works

I refer to the Minister's response to question on notice No. 5953 regarding recommendation 20 of the Western Australian Aboriginal Health Research Report, and I ask —

- (1) Given the poor state of housing in a number of Indigenous communities, how will the State ensure that housing for Indigenous families will not deteriorate further than the abysmal standard it has now reached?
- (2) When will the Department of Housing and Works complete and report on the audit of current public housing stock?
- (3) Will this audit include housing on Aboriginal Lands Trust land previously administered by the Commonwealth?

Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH replied:

The Department of Housing and Works advises

- (1) For 2008-09, the Housing Authority's Indigenous Housing Budget is \$95.7 million. The Department has also developed new governance arrangements for housing management that includes repairs and maintenance. Tenant support services are also being improved to improve outcomes for Indigenous people. Negotiations are underway with the Commonwealth using this platform to increase investment. Over time, enhanced housing management, additional housing, regular repairs and maintenance and supporting tenants to fulfil their tenancy obligations will improve the longevity of housing stock and improve housing outcomes for Indigenous people.
- (2) The Department has commenced a program to conduct Building Condition Assessments on all public housing stock commencing with the oldest properties and working progressively across the metropolitan and country areas. It is anticipated that the program will take up to 12 months to complete the program and report on the condition of stock (by 30 June 2009).
- (3) There is an additional audit being undertaken on housing in Indigenous communities where much of the housing is on Aboriginal Lands Trust land. This will include the 2,200 properties currently under housing management and an assessment of housing need.

A pilot was completed in the Murchison in March 2008. The audit of the Ngaanyatjarra Lands is progressing with six out of twelve communities completed. The Department has also commenced the audit in the east Kimberley through the Miriuwung-Gajerrong communities with the aim of having this part finished by September and the remainder of the Kimberley completed by December 2008. The audit will be completed by the end of 2008.

The audit is being undertaken by teams including an electrician, who is undertaking immediate safety repairs, an experienced Property Inspector from the Department and the local regional housing service provider. The data gathered will be used to plan and implement a program to deliver additional, sustainable housing and housing maintenance and upgrade work to improve the housing for Indigenous people.