

WOMEN'S REFUGE — BUSSELTON

**143. Hon SALLY TALBOT to the Minister for Child Protection:**

I refer to the minister's advice to the house on 19 February 2014, which states —

A new shelter for women and children escaping family and domestic violence operated by Busselton Women's Refuge Inc will commence operation in late February 2014.

- (1) Why does the new refuge house only five women when the government's commitment was for a 12-room facility accommodating up to 35 women and children?
- (2) How much of the \$720 000 budget allocation has been spent to date on funding the refuge?
- (3) What extra costs has the minister's department incurred following the demolition of the first refuge less than a month from its scheduled opening date in 2013?

**Hon HELEN MORTON** replied:

I thank the member for some notice of the question.

- (1) In June 2013, the original property acquired by the Department of Housing for the Busselton women's refuge was assessed as unsuitable for its intended purpose. This property had 12 bedrooms and a capacity to accommodate 35 women and children. An interim property has since been purchased. This property has six bedrooms and the capacity to accommodate 20 women and children. The Department of Housing will continue to explore options on the original site.
- (2) To date \$528 000, including GST, has been provided to the organisation, some of which was to allow for the start-up costs of the service, which included recruitment and staff training.
- (3) The Department for Child Protection and Family Support has not incurred any costs following the demolition of the first refuge. The Department of Housing has advised that the demolition of the building is its responsibility and as such questions should be referred to the Minister for Housing.