

HOUSING AFFORDABILITY

**111. MR N.W. MORTON to the Minister for Housing:**

Mr Speaker, I still have a question for the Minister for Housing. Will the minister please update the house on the state government's affordable housing strategy and its approach to housing affordability?

**Mr W.R. MARMION replied:**

I thank the member for Forrestfield for the very good question.

With about 1 500 people coming to Western Australia every week, it is no surprise that housing affordability is a major issue for this state. The Liberal–National government has a plan to address this matter. The plan is the “Affordable Housing Strategy 2010–2020”, released in 2010 by the member for Vasse when he was the Minister for Housing. We are already well on the way to actually deliver 20 000 houses by the year 2020. In fact, we are well on the way to delivering 7 600 already.

I will outline some of this government's achievements. We have produced nearly 5 000 building lots, constructed over 3 400 new social houses and committed another \$130 million in 2012–13 for a further 433 homes. We have committed an additional \$205 million over four years for housing support services for 450 people with high-support needs in our community. We have also freed up or reallocated 1 554 public houses by assisting over-income tenants to find alternative accommodation. Under the national rental affordability scheme, or NRAS, 724 dwellings have been completed, another 1 100 are under construction and we have committed funding for an additional 1 000. By 2016, we will have committed to 6 000 NRAS houses. We have also helped more than 2 890 households, which could not otherwise access finance, to own their own home through the Keystart home loan scheme. Further, we have also helped 434 households with average family incomes of only \$66 000 to buy their own home through our new SharedStart shared equity program. We have also assisted 30 727 people through bond loans. That is just a snapshot of what we have achieved to date. I will table the full list, as time prohibits me from reading out the whole list.

Housing affordability is a challenge; this government is up to the challenge; and we have a plan, the affordable housing strategy, whereas members opposite only ever had a draft plan.

[See paper 307.]