

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING OFFICES — RELOCATION

911. Ms S.F. McGURK to the Minister for Finance:

I have a supplementary question. Considering this issue is essential to assist in Fremantle's economic revitalisation, when can the people of Fremantle expect a decision from the announcement 18 months ago, or is it another broken promise?

Dr M.D. NAHAN replied:

I can tell the member for Fremantle this: we went out for tender looking for value. The objective was value for money. The whole decentralisation program was to shift government accommodation from the Perth urban area to outer areas, including Fremantle and others. That will be done if we can save money —

Several members interjected.

Dr M.D. NAHAN: No, it is always contingent upon that.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members!

Dr M.D. NAHAN: We are confident that that can be achieved, but it depends on the tenders and the quality of the tenders. We are searching for value for money. This is not necessarily an exercise in redeveloping Fremantle; it is primarily an exercise in getting good, lower-priced accommodation for public servants.