

HOUSING — EMERGENCY HOUSING

4248. Mrs A.K. Hayden to the Minister for Child Protection; Women’s Interests; Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence; Community Services:

I refer to emergency housing in Western Australia, and ask:

- (a) whether at any time over the past 18 months anyone has been turned away due to lack of capacity:
 - (i) if yes, please provide dates, numbers of individuals and the name and location of the emergency housing where this has occurred?

Ms S.F. McGurk replied:

- (a) Yes.
 - (i) The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare collects and releases data annually. The table below provides 2017–18 Australian Institute of Health and Welfare data for specialist homelessness services (crisis accommodation) contracted by the Department of Communities and the number of instances of requests for accommodation, where there was no accommodation available at the time of the request.

It should be noted, the total number of unassisted requests does not represent the total number of individuals requesting accommodation, as an individual may make multiple requests to different services. In addition, individuals may have been accommodated by the service at a later date, or accommodated by another service on that date.

People who could not be accommodated may have been provided with other support such as:

Information or referral to another service, or to the Crisis Care Unit as an after-hours service.

In the case of family and domestic violence, referral to Communities or the Crisis Care Unit to assist with purchased overnight accommodation where the client is at risk

Region	2017–18
Metropolitan (including Peel)	9,353
Great Southern	63
Goldfields	133
Murchison	171
Pilbara	158
Southwest	527
East Kimberley	0
West Kimberley	35
Wheatbelt	98
Total	10,538

In relation to the name and location of specialist homelessness services where these instances occurred, due to the confidentiality provisions in Section 29 of the *Australian Institute of Health and Welfare Act 1987*, the release of the individual agency information is not possible without the permission from the individual agencies themselves.

As this data is provided by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, the Department of Communities does not hold individual dates of when the instances occurred.