

SOCIAL HOUSING — APPLICATIONS — ALCOHOL AND CANNABIS USE

**452. Hon SOPHIA MOERMOND to the minister representing the Minister for Housing:**

I refer the minister to recent research published in the United States that suggests that an upturn in both alcohol and cannabis use was especially noticeable in unhoused and unstably-housed women during the COVID-19 pandemic.

- (1) Does the Department of Housing have any evidence, for example, complaints regarding a resident's alcohol or cannabis use, or other such reports to suggest an increase in local use of either alcohol or cannabis during the pandemic?
- (2) Are mechanisms in place to deny or cancel housing applications when an applicant is thought to be a regular cannabis user; and, if so, how many times were those applied during the pandemic?
- (3) How many women in WA were categorised as homeless at the beginning of the pandemic in March 2020 as opposed to today?

**The PRESIDENT:** Before I give the call to the Leader of the House, on first listening, it seems that the question is trying to elicit a significant amount of information and was not necessarily concise. I ask the member to have a think about that before the next lot of questions.

**Hon SUE ELLERY replied:**

Thank you for that guidance, President. The following response is provided on behalf of the Minister for Agriculture and Food representing the Minister for Housing.

- (1)–(2) The Department of Communities does not collect data on tenants' health conditions, including substance-use disorders.
- (3) Homelessness data is not collated in the requested format.