

## **HOUSING FIRST HOMELESSNESS INITIATIVE**

*Statement by Minister for Homelessness*

**MR J.N. CAREY (Perth — Minister for Homelessness)** [9.23 am]: I acknowledge the Minister for Health's great speech about people living with HIV and World AIDS Day.

I rise to inform the house of our government's homelessness reform package. I am very proud to have announced the \$24.2 million homelessness reform package that will drive the Housing First approach. The Housing First approach seeks to get people into housing and provide the wraparound supports they need to overcome the deep trauma that is often associated with homelessness, whether it be mental health issues, family and domestic violence or other issues. This reform package will see 100 homes delivered for rough sleepers, as well as the wraparound supports they need to sustain their tenancies, consistent with the approach. The package will also deliver a boost to homelessness accommodation at St Bart's, with funding for 18 extra beds to enable it to offer specialist case management and wraparound supports. This funding also includes an extension of the Safe Perth City Initiative and funding to improve the quality of the data in the by-name list, driving better coordination and information sharing among service providers.

As part of these reforms, we have repurposed existing funding from certain programs when appropriate. This demonstrates that we are aligning our investment with key reform priorities. We are investing in programs and initiatives that deliver better outcomes and a greater impact for people experiencing homelessness. We must constantly reassess what we do to ensure that we are getting better bang for our buck. The remaining funding from the local government partnership fund has been reallocated to deliver homelessness reforms aligned with a Housing First approach. Local governments are welcome to lodge proposals with the Department of Communities for initiatives that demonstrate a Housing First approach. The fund attracted some proposals that were aligned with *All paths lead to a home: Western Australia's 10-year strategy on homelessness 2020–2030*, which were funded. However, the majority of the proposals were not aligned and, as such, this funding has been repurposed. This ensures that new funding efforts are aligned with the strategy going forward. Our government is committed to reducing homelessness and our reform package will do this, consistent with the Housing First approach.