

RENT RELIEF PROGRAM

**22. Hon WILSON TUCKER to the Minister for Commerce:**

I refer to the WA rent relief program.

- (1) How many expressions of interest have been received to date, and of those —
  - (a) how many EOIs have been assessed, approved or rejected; and
  - (b) how many EOIs have been identified as being critical applications?
- (2) Of the \$24.4 million allocated to the program, how much has been paid to date?
- (3) Should applicants lodge their EOI through the website, [warentrelief.org.au](http://warentrelief.org.au), or seek the assistance of a community services organisation?
- (4) The website conveys that the program is not yet open. Has the program begun in earnest; and, if not, when will it open?

**Hon SUE ELLERY replied:**

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question. My answer is as at 23 February 2024.

- (1) There have been 2 024.
  - (a) A total of 87 per cent have been contacted by the community services organisations.
  - (b) Nil.
- (2) A total of \$636 198.82 has been paid.
- (3) Applicants should lodge their EOI through the website. They then will be invited to contact a community service organisation partner to make an application. Tenants who are in immediate financial distress are advised to contact the National Debt Helpline.
- (4) The program has been open since November 2023 and has financially supported 156 households since December 2023.

I note the point the member makes about the website, and I will follow up on that.