

PUBLIC AND SOCIAL HOUSING — AVAILABILITY

241. Dr D.J. HONEY to the Minister for Housing:

I have a supplementary question. The minister blamed COVID, but was it not his government that stopped critical construction workers from coming into the state during that time, precipitating the current crisis?

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order! Members, the wall of noise is unacceptable. I am going to ask the member for Cottesloe to ask the question again. I am hopeful that we will hear it in silence so that I can at least hear what he has asked.

Dr D.J. HONEY: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

The minister blamed COVID, but was it not his government that stopped critical construction workers from coming into the state during that time, precipitating the current crisis?

Mr J.N. CAREY replied:

I just find that extraordinary. What it demonstrates is that, at his heart, the member for Cottesloe did not agree with the position —

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order, please, members. Member for Cottesloe, you have asked a supplementary question and we are getting the answer. I ask you to desist, and for the Deputy Premier to desist as well.

Mr J.N. CAREY: Let us be very clear: the member for Cottesloe is on the record again saying that we should have had open borders.

Dr D.J. Honey: No, only for critical workers.

Mr J.N. CAREY: No. You have just changed your position again!

Dr D.J. Honey: Don't verbal me.

Mr J.N. CAREY: You flip-flop all over the place.

Dr D.J. Honey: Don't verbal me.

Mr J.N. CAREY: He is getting very agitated because he realises —

Dr D.J. Honey interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order, please!

Mr J.N. CAREY: The member for Cottesloe is on the way out. He has been dumped by the Liberal Party not because of his age but just because he is incompetent.

The SPEAKER: Minister, can I ask you to get back to the question, please.

Dr D.J. Honey: Yeah, not personal insults!

Mr J.N. CAREY: You deliver those all the time, member for Cottesloe; you are the master of that. You lecture us here —

Dr D.J. Honey interjected.

Mr J.N. CAREY: You are an extraordinary individual! It is no wonder the Liberal Party dumped you.

The SPEAKER: Member for Cottesloe, I have asked you to not continue to interject so incessantly. Minister, I asked you to briefly respond to the question that was asked.

Mr J.N. CAREY: Let us come back to the basis of the issue. The record number on the public waiting list was 24 000 applications. That was under the previous Barnett government, at a population level that was far less than we have now. We are making a record investment—\$2.4 billion over four years—to deliver 4 000 social homes, of which we have delivered 2 000 to date, with another thousand under construction. That is in significant contrast to that side. Let us go back to the nuts of it; let us get right to it. After seven and a half years, the Liberals have not had one social housing policy, not one housing policy and not one policy response on homelessness. That is their record. They do not take this issue seriously; they actually do not care. They have no interest in housing in Western Australia. It is only this side, our state government, through all the measures that I have previously reported in this Parliament, that is taking this issue seriously.

The SPEAKER: That concludes question time.