

HOMELESSNESS — BULLSBROOK QUARANTINE FACILITY

**479. Dr D.J. HONEY to the Premier.**

I have a supplementary question. Why is the Premier continuing to callously ignore the potential to house rough sleepers and homeless people right now instead of waiting for the delayed housing program?

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Order, please.

**Mr M. McGOWAN replied:**

We opened the new homeless facility on Wellington Street, which, from recollection, has 64 people staying there. We are building the Common Ground facility in East Perth, and one in Mandurah as well. A whole range of other services are available out there for homeless people. The reason the Common Ground facility in East Perth is delayed is because of the strength of the economy. That is the reality. We do not have enough people in the building industry for the demand that is out there. That is why we are looking for an alternative arrangement. I spoke to a major building company the other day, which is very excited by the prospect of the quarantine facility in Bullsbrook being used for these purposes. We are just trying to come up with a commonsense solution to a problem that is not of our making and for a facility that was not built by us so it can be used for some benefit by the people of the state.