

## **MY HOME PROJECT**

*Statement by Member for Cottesloe*

**DR D.J. HONEY (Cottesloe — Leader of the Liberal Party)** [12.53 pm]: I recently had the pleasure of visiting St Patrick's Community Support Centre's My Home project in North Fremantle to see firsthand some of the first wall panels being erected at the site. The My Home program is an innovative partnership between not-for-profit groups—in this case, St Patrick's and My Home Australasia—that takes advantage of surplus state government land to provide simple but safe and affordable housing to homeless women aged over 55. The homes are built using the latest prefab technology, with the walls, floors and roofing constructed offsite. In fact, I understand that this method will allow the project to be fully completed, including all earthworks and service connections, in a little over three months. St Patrick's will manage the My Home site in Fremantle. It will consist of 18 single-bedroom self-contained units constructed on vacant land in North Fremantle that is currently part of a railway reserve.

I want to take this opportunity to give a special mention to the project's architect, Michelle Blakeley. Her passion and dedication to this initiative is truly outstanding. Michelle's knowledge, empathy and willingness to help the plight of people facing homelessness in Western Australia is unsurpassed. The only downside to this project is that although it will take only three months to build the units, it took the state government over three years to grant approval to build on the site. Homelessness is a complex problem, but this innovation will be an important part of the solution, especially for single women.