

HOMELESSNESS — SOCIAL HOUSING

444. Dr D.J. HONEY to the Minister for Homelessness:

I refer to the government's 10-year homelessness strategy, and the once again delayed East Perth Common Ground facility, which is still nowhere after three years.

- (1) How many social houses have been delivered by this government since this strategy was announced?
- (2) What has been the net change in the number of social houses provided by this government since March 2017?

Visitors — Meadow Springs Primary School

The SPEAKER: Minister, just before I give you the call, I neglected to acknowledge some guests of the member for Mandurah, the year 6 leadership team from Meadow Springs Primary School. Hello everyone! I know that you might have to move out of the chamber soon, so on behalf of the member for Mandurah I wanted to make sure that I acknowledged you before you left. Thank you.

Questions without Notice Resumed

Mr J.N. CAREY replied:

- (1)–(2) I thank the member for his question. It is very clear that the Leader of the Liberal Party does not listen to the large number of questions that have been asked of me and to which I have outlined what the government is doing in delivering for social housing. I note, as I have repeated often in this Parliament, that we have announced the largest injection ever in the state's history of \$875 million for social housing. That equals \$2.4 billion over the next four years for homelessness and housing. That is contrary to the statistics that the Liberals put out, which are incessantly wrong. I have to say—consistently wrong. The most recent example of that was the member for Vasse in her column on the weekend, in which she made the false claim that there are 1 000 rough sleepers in the CBD. I ask the member for Vasse: where did you source that from?

Several members interjected.

Mr J.N. CAREY: Member for Vasse, where did you source that false statistic from?

Several members interjected.

Mr J.N. CAREY: She will not answer it, because what we see from this —

The SPEAKER: Order, please! Minister for Homelessness, this is an opportunity for members to ask questions of ministers. It is not an opportunity for ministers to ask questions of others. I am sure you would not like to trade places, minister.

Mr J.N. CAREY: I do not want to trade places, Madam Speaker. The member for Vasse just got it completely wrong. She peddled a blatant lie to the public. She misled the people —

Withdrawal of Remark

The SPEAKER: I do not require a point of order, but there is certainly a point of order to be had here. Minister for Homelessness, you cannot accuse another member of this house of lying, so I ask you to withdraw that.

Mr J.N. CAREY: I withdraw that.

Questions without Notice Resumed

Mr J.N. CAREY: What I point to is that the member quoted a completely incorrect figure as part of the Liberals' campaign to mislead the people of Western Australia. It was completely wrong. It was false. That is the fact. It is based on evidence.

We are undertaking significant investment in social housing. That is despite a heated construction market. In the last financial year, we have added 600 social homes. That was through spot purchasing and a range of different mechanisms to accelerate the delivery of social housing.

In relation to Common Ground, again we saw the opposition make false statements. The opposition said it had been shelved. That is absolutely not the case. The advice from the multiagency panel was clear—that we should not proceed with that particular result.

Dr D.J. Honey: So you've stopped it, but you haven't shelved it?

Mr J.N. CAREY: This is what I mean! We have an opposition that will say anything and do anything but does not have any policy on homelessness. It is not shelved. We are absolutely committed to the Common Ground project. We are working back through the tender process to get it out there as soon as we can. We are absolutely committed to the Common Ground project, just as we are absolutely committed to delivering social housing in Western Australia.

