

SOCIAL HOUSING — 2023–24 STATE BUDGET

260. Ms C.M. COLLINS to the Minister for Housing:

I refer to the McGowan Labor government's record investment to build more social houses across WA. Can the minister please further outline to the house how this budget's additional investment will further boost housing supply to ensure that vulnerable Western Australians can have access to affordable housing?

Mr J.N. CAREY replied:

I want to thank the member for her question.

Our government is very clear in its commitment to accelerate the delivery of housing and, in particular, social housing. In the last answer, I gave our record and said what we are achieving. With the Premier, I announced a new funding injection of \$511 million in this budget to boost social housing and tackle homelessness. That is a serious investment to top up our existing fund and set the target now of providing 4 000 social homes in Western Australia. It also includes a new pilot program for the regions, which is a supported landlord model. That is when we either spot purchase or construct, but mostly spot purchase, a unit and connect it with a rough sleeper and ensure that they have sustained support to maintain their tenancy. That is a longer term pilot program for the regions based on our metro program, which I announced last year.

I want to say this: the sector and stakeholders have responded to that announcement. I want to put those responses on the record because we have heard from the member for Vasse that our government and I do not take this seriously. Kath Snell from Shelter WA said, "We congratulate the Premier and Minister Carey on this announcement today and commend them on the momentum they continue to build in this space." Mark Glasson from Anglicare WA said, "I want to congratulate and commend the Premier and Minister Carey. It's a really good step." The Urban Development Institute of Australia WA said it was —

A significant investment in social housing and homelessness response announced today combined with construction workforce initiatives yesterday. Great to see proactive approach to housing supply

The Real Estate Institute of Western Australia, which rarely comments about social housing, said —

Today's announcement ticks the box in terms of increasing housing supply and we hope will help put a roof over the heads of the most vulnerable Western Australians.

The Master Builders Association said that it is a significant investment and creates a pipeline of work for the industry.

Across the board there is universal support by the stakeholders, who understand that we take this seriously. There was one lone voice who criticised it—Hon Steve Martin. Do members know what he said? To be very clear, this is what he said: a complete waste of time. There it is. That is a real insight into this opposition. It has no genuine commitment to social housing. Hon Steve Martin and his team are repeatedly missing in action. They are never at events and never engage stakeholders. They are not taken seriously. There is a very clear difference between the government and the opposition. Opposition members say that social housing is a complete waste of time. That is the ethos of the Liberal Party. It has no interest in this. Remember this: not one of them could make the Mission Australia lunch. I always come back to that because it reflects their attitude to social services, remembering that the Leader of the Liberal Party called it a fancy event.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order, please, members!

Mr J.N. CAREY: This is the reality of the opposition. It believes that social housing is a complete waste of time. We do not. We are doing everything we can to accelerate the delivery of social housing in Western Australia.