

WOMEN'S REFUGE, WONTHELLA HOUSE, GERALDTON, EXTENSION

257. Hon MURRAY CRIDDLE to the Minister for Housing and Works:

I refer to the extension of the women's refuge at 205 Sixth Street, Geraldton, which includes 203 Sixth Street.

- (1) Who owns 203 Sixth Street, Wonthella, Geraldton?
- (2) Who provided valuations of the property?
- (3) What were those valuations?
- (4) What was the purchase price?
- (5) What consultation process was used in the extension of the women's refuge complex to include 203 Sixth Street, Wonthella?
- (6) Were surrounding residents informed?

Hon TOM STEPHENS replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question.. My department has provided the following advice -

- (1) The property is owned by the Department of Housing and Works and is leased to Wonthella House, the women's refuge.
- (2) Midwest Valuations of Geraldton.
- (3) The valuations carried out on the duplex show that the market value for the combined units was \$155 000 and for the individual units it was \$82 500.
- (4) The purchase price for each duplex half was \$80 000, given that they were separately owned.
- (5) Wonthella House is a well-run refuge. The refuge approached the Department of Housing and Works for exit point accommodation under the crisis accommodation program. Wonthella House raised the possibility of purchasing 203 Sixth Street when both properties were placed on the market. The Department for Community Development supported the application. Funding was available to manage the properties under the existing supported accommodation assistance program allocation.
- (6) Surrounding neighbours were not informed. The purpose of the purchase was to provide exit point accommodation for those leaving the refuge. As such, surrounding neighbour approval was not required. The member might appreciate that the recent homelessness task force report focused on the need for exit points to be available in the community, so that people could move beyond crisis accommodation facilities. People are often trapped in refuges and other crisis accommodation and are not given the opportunity to move into accommodation of this sort. I am pleased that my department, with the support of the Department for Community Development, has made available an exit point accommodation facility in Geraldton to meet this particular need.