

HOUSING — INITIATIVES

**168. Ms D.G. D'ANNA to the Minister for Housing:**

I refer to the Cook Labor government's record investment to boost housing across Western Australia.

- (1) Can the minister outline to the house what measures are being taken by this government to enhance and revitalise housing in Western Australian regions?
- (2) Can the minister advise the house how these measures to increase the delivery of housing will benefit our regional communities?

**Mr J.N. CAREY replied:**

- (1)–(2) I thank the member for her question. I am very proud, as a government minister, of the significant investment we are making in social housing and housing across Western Australia. As I have said many a time, there is record investment of \$2.6 billion over four years in social housing and homelessness to deliver 4 000 homes. Of course, that is not the only investment we are making. We are also undertaking a number of different reforms: using lazy government land, bringing in reforms regarding the short-term rental sector, the rent relief scheme to support renters, the cash incentive to get Airbnbs back into the market—a whole range of different measures.

Last week I joined Ali Kent, the member for Kalgoorlie, in announcing a new initiative to boost the community housing sector in regional communities. We announced a \$50 million grants program to boost housing supply run by community providers for the south west, great southern, wheatbelt, goldfields, midwest, Gascoyne, Pilbara and the Kimberley. In effect, this is an open call for submissions—to ask any community housing providers working in regional Western Australia to come forward with their projects that the state can fund. I have made it very clear that our state government is open for business, and our general call for submissions is getting results already. Only last week, I was in Coolbellup opening 16 units that were a direct result of our reforms. This is another reform targeted at regional communities, helping to provide support to the critical community housing sector.

Again, I note that the stakeholders have openly and strongly supported this. In fact, the vice-chair of Shelter WA, Michael Piu, said he was absolutely delighted with the new funding. He said —

Our members warmly welcome this. It is a game changer for community housing organisations that are working to deliver additional social housing and supply in the regions.

I note that actually there was silence from the opposition this time—a bit of difference from the opposition. As we know, every other time, the opposition criticises every proposal we release to the housing market. This time there was silence, so maybe we should take that as an improvement. There is a clear divide between the opposition side, which to date still has not released one social housing policy, not one planning policy and not one homelessness policy, and this side of the chamber, which is doing everything it can, using every measure it can, to accelerate the delivery of housing and social housing in Western Australia.