

SOCIAL HOUSING — ELIGIBILITY

Statement by Minister for Housing

MR J.N. CAREY (Perth — Minister for Housing) [9.12 am]: I rise to update the house on the Cook government's ongoing commitment to ensuring access to safe and affordable housing for all Western Australians. The Cook government is again increasing the income eligibility limits for social housing, marking another step forward in our efforts to support vulnerable individuals and families. Effective from 20 March 2024, the income eligibility limits for social housing will see a \$9 increase for single-income households and a \$14 increase for dual-income households. This adjustment is crucial in ensuring that those who rely solely on commonwealth statutory benefits remain eligible for the vital support provided by social housing.

It is important to recognise the context in which these changes are being made. This is very critical. Over its eight years in office, the previous Liberal–National government neglected to address the stagnant income eligibility limits, leaving vulnerable members of our community without adequate support. Not once did it raise the eligibility limits. In contrast, since taking office in March 2017, the Cook Labor government has increased social housing eligibility limits five times, reflecting our unwavering dedication to supporting those in need.

Our government's commitment to ensuring access to safe, affordable and sustainable housing for Western Australians remains unchanged. These changes are in line with rising income support payment rates, ensuring that we continue to support those who rely on commonwealth income support.