## SOCIAL HOUSING — INCOME ELIGIBILITY LIMITS

*Statement by Minister for Housing*

**MR J.N. CAREY (Perth — Minister for Housing)** [9.09 am]: I rise to update the house on the Cook government's commitment to providing safe and secure housing for our state's most vulnerable people. For the second time this year, we are increasing the income eligibility limits for social housing. The revisions will directly benefit both single-income and dual-income households, ensuring that individuals who rely solely on commonwealth statutory benefits without additional income sources will continue to meet the criteria for social housing assistance.

Specifically, the adjustments will result in a $16 increase for single-income households and a $21 increase for dual-income households, and are directly aligned with the upcoming 3.2 per cent increase in statutory commonwealth payments, including the single age, disability support and services pensions, along with the carer payment, that took effect from September 20 this year. It ensures that we can continue to support those receiving commonwealth payments, including those eligible for the aged and disability pension who may experience changes in income support rates.

The changes apply to both public housing and community housing when public housing income eligibility limits apply. I emphasise that this marks the fourth time that we have increased social housing eligibility limits since taking office. This track record highlights our commitment to ensuring that the most vulnerable members of the community have access to housing that is not only affordable but also sustainable. That is in stark contrast with the eight years under the previous Liberal–National government when social housing income eligibility limits remained stagnant; they were not increased. The Cook government remains committed to increasing the supply of housing across Western Australia, and as minister I will always explore every option available to do so.