

SOCIAL HOUSING — COMMUNITY PROVIDERS

Statement by Minister for Housing

MR J.N. CAREY (Perth — Minister for Housing) [12.13 pm]: The Cook Labor government is taking significant steps to enhance the supply and diversity of social housing across Western Australia. We are inviting registered community housing providers to submit expressions of interest to collaborate with the Department of Communities to refurbish or provide new housing managed by the sector for vulnerable individuals. Our goal is to foster partnerships between community housing providers and our government to leverage their collective resources and expertise. Through this process, community housing providers will be able to present to the department with a range of projects. It will encourage innovative funding models and partnerships and empower providers to proactively come forward with community housing projects. This call for submissions is part of our ongoing process of housing reform. It will mean that community housing providers can access funding and support from the department faster, which will reflect our commitment to support the community housing sector in the delivery of social housing throughout Western Australia.

Further, as part of our soon-to-be-announced planning reforms, I have flagged that community housing providers will be able to access the development assessment panel system directly for approvals, regardless of the value or size of the project. This will cut red tape and reduce administrative and time constraints on delivery. The call for submissions is open to any CHP registered under the WA community housing regulatory framework. Submissions received during this process may be considered for various forms of support, including capital grant funding, land leases or land contributions. I encourage all registered community housing providers in the state to participate in this call for submissions and bring forward innovative and suitable housing solutions. I am resolutely committed to continuing to explore every opportunity possible to ensure we accelerate the supply of social housing in our state, and empowering our community housing providers is a key factor in this process.