

HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS — INITIATIVES

182. Ms K.E. GIDDENS to the Minister for Housing:

I refer to the Cook Labor government's record \$2.6 billion investment in housing and homelessness initiatives.

- (1) Can the minister outline to the house how this government is leveraging new innovative delivery methods to accelerate the delivery of new housing?
- (2) Can the minister update the house on the progress of this government's commitment to deliver 4 000 additional social homes?

Mr J.N. CAREY replied:

- (1)–(2) I want to thank the member for her question. Today I was out in Spearwood with Summit Homes Group. We were visiting the delivery of four tiny homes—very high-quality homes; one bedroom, one bathroom—that will provide secure housing for seniors. These were built offsite. They took 12 weeks to build. It demonstrates one of the ways that we are accelerating the delivery of social housing in Western Australia. There has been a lot of interest. Our reforms to cut red tape for granny flats will mean that this type of product is simply not just eligible for social housing, but will be embraced by Western Australians.

Of course, as the member said, it is part of our record investment—\$2.6 billion over four years to deliver 4 000 homes. I am pleased to report to Parliament that we reached an important milestone today. We have now delivered 2 014 social homes for Western Australians since our record investment. We have done that through a huge number of reforms. As I have said, we have created alternative delivery programs like modular, prefab, timber and spot purchasing. We have established statewide builders panels to pre-approve builders for work. We have created an \$80 million infrastructure development fund to support the cost of headworks and connections. We are unlocking lazy government land for community housing providers. We have provided around \$200 million for ongoing grants to the community housing sector and we are working on major renewal projects like North Beach, Subi East and Smith Street, which the previous government failed to do. We launched the unique supportive landlord model, which has already delivered 87 homes to assist 122 people sleeping rough to get off the street. We have passed nation-leading planning reforms. We are boosting homelessness services and funding 130 across Western Australia. We have introduced tax incentives for apartments and build-to-rent, including up-front 100 per cent stamp duty concessions for apartments, and we are regulating stronger short-term rental and incentivising more Airbnb back to the market.

I think I need a cigarette after that, and I do not smoke! That was a joke.

The point I am making is this: people are seeing our government taking unprecedented effort to boost housing supply, and it has been reflected in the results. There has been a 34 per cent increase in the last financial year in the number of people on the public housing waiting list being housed. On average, about 125 homes each month are being added or returned to the public housing system. So people are seeing that our record investment is delivering a clear boost to social housing in Western Australia.