

OOMBULGURRI — CLOSURE

1286. Hon SALLY TALBOT to the Minister for Child Protection:

I refer to the government's closure of the Oombulgurri community and eviction of the residents in 2011.

- (1) How many women and children were evicted from their homes?
- (2) What steps did the Minister for Child Protection's department take to minimise the trauma and hardship for the women and children who were evicted from their homes?
- (3) How many women —
 - (a) received counselling during and after the evictions; and
 - (b) received other services during and after the evictions?
- (4) How many children —
 - (a) received counselling during and after the evictions; and
 - (b) received other services during and after the evictions?
- (5) How many women and children —
 - (a) have been relocated to Wyndham;
 - (b) have been relocated to other places in the Kimberley; and
 - (c) have yet to be relocated?

Hon HELEN MORTON replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of this question. The Minister for Aboriginal Affairs advises —

- (1) No residents were evicted from their homes. People left on their own accord; some self-relocated and others were offered accommodation in alternative locations, which they accepted.
- (2) The department worked in collaboration with the Department of Housing, Department of Aboriginal Affairs and other key stakeholders to provide support. This included the remote child protection worker regularly visiting and supporting the families who were housed at the temporary accommodation in Wyndham.
- (3)–(4) A remote community child protection worker from the Department of Child Protection and Family Support was stationed in Oombulgurri during the closure of the community to provide support to residents. After all residents had vacated, this position was moved to Wyndham to continue to provide support to families housed at the temporary accommodation in Wyndham. The specific number of those who made use of this service is unavailable.
- (5) The Minister for Aboriginal Affairs has advised —
 - (a) Nineteen women and 16 children.
 - (b) Two women and three children.
 - (c) Nil.