

HOMELESSNESS — INFORMATION COLLECTION

**681. Hon SALLY TALBOT to the Minister for Child Protection:**

I refer to the WA Auditor General's 2012 finding in relation to the National Partnership Agreement on Homelessness, which states —

It is ... not possible to say if the 20 programs reduced homelessness for clients assisted by them. This is because it would be necessary to know how many individuals became and remain housed over the four year life of the Plan and even beyond. At present DCP does not have reliable information on the length of clients' tenancies so their level of homelessness cannot yet be determined.

What has the minister done to ensure that reliable information about homelessness can be collected?

**Hon HELEN MORTON replied:**

I thank the member for some notice of the question.

The majority of specialist homelessness services funded through the National Partnership Agreement on Homelessness—the NPAH—are required to participate in the national specialist homelessness services collection, which commenced in July 2011. The Department for Child Protection and Family Support, in collaboration with the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, provides regular training and support to homelessness services to collect and report homelessness data. In June 2013, an independent evaluation of the NPAH programs in Western Australia was released. This evaluation provides data on the effectiveness of the NPAH programs and outcomes for clients. Due to the transient nature of some homelessness clients, it is very difficult to obtain reliable long-term data on a person's housing status. This is why the department and its contracted service providers work collaboratively to participate in national data collection such as the specialist homelessness services collection.