

SOCIAL HOUSING — STOCK

94. Ms L. METTAM to the Minister for Housing:

Thank you. I have a supplementary question. Regardless of the minister's spin, there is less social housing available than when he came to government, and how on earth does that represent a good outcome for Western Australia?

Mr J.N. CAREY replied:

Let us talk about spin and the opposition. Last year in an opinion piece, the Leader of the Liberal Party said there were 1 000 rough sleepers in the city. In Parliament, she said, "I tried to correct it. I tried to fix it." She probably did not even write the piece. We had the shadow housing minister deliberately distort statistics about housing vacancies. I will not take any lectures from the Liberal and National Parties. They have no real concern for housing or homelessness. I will give members a really specific example—Mission Australia's homelessness lunch. The Governor was there, the Deputy Lord Mayor of Perth was there, I was there for the sixth year in a row, but not one member of the opposition could bother turning up for 30 minutes. Where were they? Where was the member for Cottesloe? Where was the member for Vasse?

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order, please, members!

Dr D.J. Honey: You've got to be invited.

Mr J.N. CAREY: No, you don't! This is the ignorance of the opposition. This is a free public event for all Western Australians. Not one of them could find the time. That is their level of care and concern. The opposition spokesperson for housing is so missing in action that even at the Urban Development Institute of Australia event last week, I said I wanted to acknowledge the shadow Minister for Housing—I always make sure that I acknowledge the opposition—but I was told he had sent a staff member because he had not turned up. Then they said, "That's pretty usual. It's not the first time." The opposition has no commitment to housing and homelessness. I understand that the Liberal member called the Mission Australia homeless lunch a fancy event. Is that what you just said? You said a "fancy event".

Ms L. Mettam: I was not referring to that event.

Mr J.N. CAREY: You are shameless—absolutely shameless! None of you bother. There are 15 of you and not one of you makes the time. It is shameful for the opposition, and that reflects its lack of commitment and the lack of respect it has for the housing and homelessness sector.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order! Member for Landsdale, I have not given you the call yet. Member for Southern River and others, applause is not appropriate.