

GALLARUNG WORKERS HOSTEL — KUNUNURRA

1271. Hon Robin Chapple to the Minister for Agriculture and Food representing the Minister for Housing:

Regarding the high rate of homelessness, overcrowding and associated social problems in Kununurra, as identified in the *East Kimberley Homelessness project report 2014*, I ask:

- (a) is the Minister aware of the report:
  - (i) if no to (a), why not; and
  - (ii) if yes to (a), what steps is the Minister taking to address the many concerns that are outlined in the report;
- (b) is the Minister aware that the 40-bed Gallarung Workers Hostel in Kununurra lies vacant despite the high rate of homelessness in the town:
  - (i) if no to (b), why not; and
  - (ii) if yes to (b), why is this so, and what is being done to better utilise the facility;
- (c) who is responsible for running the Gallarung Hostel, and to whom do they report;
- (d) are there any plans to close the Gallarung Hostel:
  - (i) if yes to (d), why and when is this scheduled to take place; and
- (e) does the Minister have any plans to utilise the Gallarung Hostel in some way in order to alleviate the homelessness and overcrowding in Kununurra:
  - (i) if yes to (e), will the Minister please table his plans?

**Hon Ken Baston replied:**

The Department of Housing advises:

- (a) Homelessness falls within the portfolio of the Minister for Child Protection.
- (b)–(e) Aboriginal Hostels Limited is responsible for the Kununurra Hostel. Aboriginal Hostels Limited is a Commonwealth Government entity. The Department of Housing has no involvement in the hostel.