

BROWN AVENUE, KALGOORLIE — OCCUPANCY

685. Hon STEPHEN DAWSON to the minister representing the Minister for Housing:

I refer to media reports in the *Kalgoorlie Miner* regarding seven vacant houses in Brown Avenue, Kalgoorlie.

- (1) As of 1 June 2014, how many applications existed for public housing in the goldfields region and how many years has the longest applicant been waiting?
- (2) As of 1 June 2014, how many of the applicants currently waiting on public housing in the goldfields region identify as Aboriginal?
- (3) What immediate action has or will be taken by the Department of Housing regarding the Brown Avenue housing complex, given that the Goldfields Indigenous Housing Association advised that it does not have capacity to manage the facility?
- (4) How long has the Department of Housing been aware that seven houses in the Brown Avenue complex are vacant?
- (5) How quickly will the department act to appoint tenants to the vacant properties in the Brown Avenue complex?

Hon KEN BASTON replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question. On behalf of the Minister for Housing —

- (1) The number is 433. Further information about the time the longest applicant has been waiting cannot be provided in the time available. I request that the member place this part of the question on notice.
- (2) Of the 764 people associated with the applications on the waitlist, 423 have self-identified as Aboriginal.
- (3) The department is working towards engaging an organisation with local presence and capacity to manage the complex under the Crisis Accommodation Program.
- (4) The properties in the complex were refurbished under the make good reform program, aimed at assisting Indigenous community housing organisations upgrade their community housing stock. In November 2013, GIHO advised the department that it no longer intended to manage the complex and sought assistance in appointing another organisation to manage the complex.
- (5) Given that the department is in a process of sourcing an alternative organisation, GIHO remains responsible for the management of the complex. GIHO can consider selecting eligible applicants and occupying the remaining units.