

KEYSTART

251. Hon SALLY TALBOT to the Minister for Housing:

I refer to the Economic Regulation Authority's recommendation that Keystart should be scrapped because its lending poses a "risk" to the Western Australian government. Is the ERA report wrong; and, if so, why?

Hon COL HOLT replied:

That is a bit disappointing, is it not? Keystart plays an important role in providing low-cost loans to people in an income spectrum that banks will not look at. It has played a key role in the affordable housing strategy to date. I think Keystart plays an important role, and I am keen to see it continue. The ERA always comes from one particular viewpoint when it talks about economic rationalism. I do not always agree with it, that is for sure. In this case, I think Keystart plays an important role and we will continue to support that important role in providing low-cost homes for people who can least afford them.