

DISABILITY SERVICES COMMISSION — MORATORIUM ON HOUSING

1247. Hon SUE ELLERY to the Minister for Disability Services:

I refer to the dire need for more social housing to meet the specific needs of people with disabilities and the request by the Disability Services Commission to the Department of Housing to effectively put a moratorium on new stock for this group while a research project on alternative models is undertaken. Will the minister ask the Disability Services Commission to reconsider its position that a moratorium on any new stock is reasonable, and at least release some new stock suitable for people with disabilities while the research project continues?

Hon SIMON O'BRIEN replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of this question.

The Disability Services Commission has not asked for a moratorium on the release of new housing stock for people with disabilities. The commission has asked for an 18-month moratorium on the Department of Housing implementing a registration process for all disability service providers to ensure that all service providers can get access to housing for people with disabilities without policy impediments. This means that the Department of Housing can release new stock to people with disabilities, as it has always done.