

PUBLIC HOUSING — INCOME ELIGIBILITY

958. Hon SAMANTHA ROWE to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Housing:

I refer to the income threshold for public housing eligibility.

- (1) When was the income threshold last increased?
- (2) Does the minister believe the current threshold is restricting those in severe housing stress from applying for public housing?
- (3) Does the minister intend to increase the threshold in the near future?
- (4) Is the minister currently considering indexation options for some eligibility thresholds to ensure that they are reflective of cost-of-living increases?

Hon COL HOLT replied:

I thank the member for some notice of the question.

- (1) It was last increased in 2006.
- (2) Anyone receiving a statutory payment is eligible to apply.
- (3) The affordable housing strategy flags the need to strengthen the social housing system.
- (4) The Housing Authority continually monitors eligibility criteria to determine the appropriateness of eligibility limits including for both income and assets. Importantly, public housing eligibility should not be viewed in isolation of the Liberal–National government’s commitment under the affordable housing strategy to increase the range of housing options for low to moderate-income earners. The strategy has been delivering homes for people right across the housing continuum—public and community housing for people on very low incomes, discounted private rentals and/or bond assistance for people on low incomes, and home loans and shared equity options for people on low to moderate incomes who cannot obtain mainstream home loans. In recognition of the Liberal–National government meeting its target under the state affordable housing strategy of 20 000 additional affordable homes by 2020, the government has raised its minimum target to 30 000 affordable homes by 2020. To date, nearly 24 000 homes have been delivered under the strategy. This has a much greater impact than adjusting eligibility criteria.