

HOUSING AUTHORITY — FOYER OXFORD

Statement by Minister for Housing

HON COL HOLT (South West — Minister for Housing) [10.03 am]: On 28 October, the Premier, Hon Colin Barnett, MLA, announced the Housing Authority as the overall winner at the 2015 Premier's Awards for Excellence in Public Sector Management. This is the second consecutive year that the Housing Authority has won the overall prize—a first in the 20-year history of the Premier's Awards program. Last year the agency won the award for its shared equity expression of interest program, which not only tackles housing affordability but also delivers significant economic benefits to the state.

This year, Foyer Oxford has been acknowledged for bringing together a range of partners from government, community and corporate sectors to deliver a holistic response to youth homelessness. The 98-unit complex in Leederville, completed in 2014, provides secure accommodation and services designed to transition young people into fully independent and productive lives. Foyer seeks to stop the cycle of hopelessness in which socially disadvantaged people can be trapped and provides them with the tools to become engaged, self-determining and productive members of society, which ultimately benefits the whole community.

The Housing Authority partnered with the Foyer Oxford Consortium to build a world-class facility that provides fully self-contained, subsidised accommodation to young people. Foundation Housing manages the facility, while Anglicare WA delivers the Foyer program, a proven best-practice model that provides wraparound support for up to two years. Foyer Oxford is co-located on the Central Institute of Technology campus and this education institution delivers Jumpstart, a course designed specifically to meet the needs of young residents.

One year in and Foyer Oxford is already seeing young people move on to independent accommodation, with potentially thousands more to follow. Foyer Oxford currently provides housing for an aspirational community of 98 young people, including 24 who are parents, and their children, and is currently the largest youth accommodation service in the country. The unique method of delivery through the Housing Authority and Foyer Oxford Consortium is cohesive and integrated, allowing the strengths of each of the organisations to bring together the right mix of opportunities, resources and skills that can enable young people to thrive long term.

This collaborative response to youth homelessness between government, the not-for-profit sector and industry funding partners is a testament to each member's perseverance, innovation, shared vision and trust in each other throughout the project.