

PUBLIC HOUSING

**1149. Hon LYNN MacLAREN to the minister representing the Minister for Housing:**

- (1) How is the state government directly assisting people in urgent need of housing and health services who are being turned away from public housing?
- (2) How many emergency housing and social housing dwellings will be built this year for people on the priority list?
- (3) Does the minister acknowledge how difficult it is for a person experiencing homelessness to navigate the system and be forced to wait for three years for a home in one of the richest states in the world?

**Hon KEN BASTON replied:**

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

- (1) It is suggested that this part of the question be asked of the Minister for Child Protection, as this falls within her portfolio.
- (2) In 2014–15, the department will build 170 social housing dwellings and 21 dwellings under its crisis accommodation program. The Department of Housing cannot comment on how many properties from a specific construction project will be allocated to priority applicants. The department allocates accommodation to applicants in the order in which they apply. When an applicant can demonstrate that they have an urgent need for housing that cannot be met by being listed on the department's wait turn list, they are granted priority status. The department allocates 60 per cent of its available accommodation to priority applicants, 20 per cent to wait turn applicants and 20 per cent to transfer applicants. All accommodation is placed in a central pool and allocated according to family size, preferred zone and required accommodation type.
- (3) The Minister for Housing acknowledges the difficulty experienced by the homeless people in our community. A significant portion of public housing is allocated to people experiencing homelessness, and the Department of Housing advises that the average wait time for a priority applicant as at 30 June 2014 was 67 weeks. The department's Homeless Advisory Service provides information to assist people to secure their own accommodation and link with crisis accommodation services, and people can get a bond loan to assist them into private rental accommodation. Over the past five years, the National Partnership Agreement on Homelessness has provided a major boost to homelessness services. The state government is seeking a commitment from the commonwealth to further funding for the NPAH beyond 30 June 2015.