

PUBLIC HOUSING — ELIGIBILITY INCOME THRESHOLD

**1398. Hon SAMANTHA ROWE to the minister representing the Minister for Housing:**

I refer to the income threshold for public housing eligibility, which has not been raised since 2006 despite significant increases to the cost of living.

- (1) Why will the government not increase the income threshold for public housing tenants?
- (2) Why is the public housing income threshold set below the poverty line?
- (3) Why will the government not index the income threshold to the consumer price index or another measure?

**Hon KEN BASTON replied:**

I thank the honourable member for some notice of this question. The Department of Housing advises —

- (1) The eligibility income limits aim to ensure that public housing is targeted at those most in need. There are still 19 577 eligible applicants on the waiting list. The department will continue to monitor the income eligibility levels in line with this objective.
- (2) The public housing income eligibility limits are higher than the poverty line figures in the Australian Council of Social Service's "Poverty in Australia 2014" report. This is set at 50 per cent of median incomes.
- (3) Indexation may be considered in any future review of the eligibility limits.