

ABORIGINAL HOUSING — PILBARA

1288. Hon Robin Chapple to the Minister for Agriculture and Food representing the Minister for Housing:

Regarding pages 522 and 523 of the *2014–15 Budget Papers 2, Volume 2*, specifically the paragraphs relating to Aboriginal people, I ask would the Minister to please explain why there are no funds directed at housing the homeless, which is a particularly critical matter for Aboriginal people, and especially Aboriginal people in the Pilbara?

Hon Ken Baston replied:

The Department of Housing advises that questions relating to homelessness should be referred to the Minister for Child Protection as the Minister with responsibility for homelessness related services, and in this regard I draw your attention to pages 415–425 of Budget Paper No. 2.

Under the 2014–15 National Partnership Agreement on Homelessness, the Commonwealth Government has maintained funding for homelessness services but has not continued funding for construction of new housing facilities for the homeless.

In terms of housing in remote communities, Western Australia leads the country in achieving goals set under the National Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Housing. A total of 115 new homes and 256 refurbishments were completed by the Department in the 2013–14 financial year and, in the five years to date, 497 new homes and 1 288 refurbishments have been completed.

Negotiations with the Commonwealth Government on the building and refurbishment program for the period 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2016 have not yet been finalised.