

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING — HOMELESSNESS

1125. Hon LYNN MacLAREN to the minister representing the Minister for Housing:

- (1) Can the minister confirm whether it is current government policy to not allow people experiencing homelessness to put “homeless” as their address on Homeswest forms?
- (2) If no to (2), what address should people experiencing homelessness provide?
- (3) Can the minister table resources, including referrals provided by Department of Housing staff, to people experiencing homelessness?
- (4) Can the minister confirm that people experiencing homelessness are told to “call us back in one year” to check their progress on the waiting list; and, if so, what are they supposed to do in the meantime?

Hon KEN BASTON replied:

I thank the member for some notice of the question. On behalf of the Minister for Housing, the Department of Housing advises the following —

- (1) The Department of Housing requires applicants to provide a postal address in Western Australia. Applications are accepted without a residential address.
- (2) The department requires contact details—for example, post office, family, friend, advocate or support agency—to enable the department to contact applicants.
- (3) The department provides information to homeless applicants, and referrals to local support groups available in the local area.
- (4) No. When applicants are homeless, the department encourages them to maintain regular contact with the department to ensure they are able to be contacted when housing becomes available.