

HOUSING AUTHORITY —TENANCIES — RENT INCREASE

236. Hon AMBER-JADE SANDERSON to the Minister for Housing:

I refer to the recently announced changes to public housing rent calculations and the minister's response to question on notice 5013 in the other place that the change will apply to approximately 28 000 tenancies on 28 March 2016 and approximately 3 000 additional tenancies during 2016.

- (1) Can the minister confirm that —
 - (a) the change to public housing rent calculations will apply to approximately 28 000 tenancies on 28 March 2016; and
 - (b) the approximately 3 000 tenancies will be in addition to the 28 000 to which the new calculation will apply on 28 March 2016?
- (2) By the end of 2016, what is the approximate number of tenancies to which the new calculation method will apply as a total number and as a percentage of the total number of public housing tenancies?
- (3) Will the minister rescind the authority's new method of determining assessable income before its planned implementation?

Hon COL HOLT replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question.

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The approximate number is 32 500 and the percentage is 90 per cent.
- (3) I have asked the Housing Authority, before it implements this policy, to ensure that commonwealth payments are considered against the principles of payments being regular, ongoing and used for general living expenses.