

OSPREY KEY WORKER VILLAGE

89. Hon SALLY TALBOT to the Minister for Housing:

I refer to the former Minister for Housing's answer to question on notice 2285 that set out the new rents on properties at Osprey Village as of 23 December 2014.

- (1) What is the total cost of the overcharged rent that has been back-paid to the tenants at Osprey Village?
- (2) Who has paid out for the overcharged rent—the Department of Housing or the village operator Fleetwood?
- (3) Given that tenants signed contracts for a period of time at a higher rental cost, why have they now received this money?

Hon COL HOLT replied:

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

- (1)–(3) The intent of the government's investment into Osprey Village is to provide affordable key worker housing consistent with prevailing market conditions. As such, the Department of Housing advises it conducted a periodic rent review in October 2014. The review found that the rental market in Hedland had softened and therefore the department reduced the rents to keep them consistent with prevailing market conditions. The total cost of the rent to be credited to tenants as a result of the review is approximately \$195 000. The department is responsible for crediting the tenants' accounts and started doing so on 9 February 2015.