

INDIGENOUS TENANCY ADVOCACY SERVICE

1221. Hon ALANNA CLOHESY to the minister representing the Minister for Housing:

I refer to the decision to cut funding from the Indigenous tenancy advocacy service—ITAS—as at December this year.

- (1) Why was the decision made to end funding for ITAS services?
- (2) Given the cuts to ITAS will directly impact on Indigenous people in the most remote areas of Western Australia, what alternative options will be available to assist in meeting the housing demand?
- (3) Will the Minister for Housing now direct his department to reverse its proposed funding cut; and, if not, why not?

Hon KEN BASTON replied:

On behalf of the Minister for Housing, I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question.

- (1) The department sought to consolidate its tenant and support services under the support and tenant education program—STEP.
- (2) STEP is available in all locations previously covered by ITAS. In addition, the Department of Commerce delivers a statewide tenancy advocacy service designed to assist all Western Australians.
- (3) No. These services for Indigenous clients are provided under alternative programs.