

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING — FREMANTLE ZONE — PRIORITY WAITLIST

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

I refer to my constituent Emma Louise Taylor, who is a single mother on the priority waitlist in the Department of Housing's Fremantle zone.

- (1) Can the minister confirm that the Department of Housing's Fremantle zone has a three-year waitlist for priority housing because the department is currently assisting priority applicants listed since February 2011?
- (2) How many victims of domestic violence are currently on the department's priority waitlist?
- (3) Can the minister confirm, as Ms Taylor was informed by the Department of Housing, that she may apply for a bond assistance loan, which is an interest-free loan to assist accessing private rental accommodation; however, that by doing so she will be taken off the priority waitlist?
- (4) Given her Newstart income is \$537.80 a fortnight and the commonwealth rent assistance for her is capped at \$144 a fortnight, how many private rentals could she afford within the Fremantle and Kwinana zones?
- (5) What does the government suggest someone on Ms Taylor's income, with this long wait for her priority housing, should do in order to provide a stable and secure home for herself and her children?

**Hon KEN BASTON replied:**

I thank the member for some notice of this question.

- (1) The current month of allocation in the Fremantle zone for applications of the same accommodation type as that of Ms Taylor is December 2011. Various factors influence the time an applicant may wait for housing. These include the region in which the applicant is seeking housing; the turnover of tenants in an area; the type of housing an applicant is seeking, such as the number of bedrooms and whether it is an aged persons' unit et cetera; and whether the applicant is priority listed.
- (2) Domestic violence issues have been disclosed by 344 applicants.
- (3) No.
- (4) The department is unable to answer this question as it has no knowledge of all private rentals available and the rents charged.
- (5) Ms Taylor is encouraged to visit the department for information on crisis and/or community housing accommodation providers, and to accept the department's offer of a bond assistance loan.