

SOCIAL HOUSING

**1440. Hon STEVE MARTIN to the minister representing the Minister for Housing:**

I refer to the state government's housing programs.

- (1) How many homes have been spot purchased by the government across the state since the start of the financial year to date?
- (2) What is the number of total social homes in stock today?
- (3) How many homes have been completed as part of the regional modular build program as of today?

**Hon JACKIE JARVIS replied:**

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question. The following response has been provided by the Minister for Housing.

- (1) Spot purchasing is just one part of the state government's record \$2.6 billion investment in social housing and homelessness measures across WA. The state government will continue to accelerate social housing delivery including through initiatives such as modular, pre-fabricated and timber-frame builds and expansion of the statewide builders panels and spot purchasing.  
  
The Department of Communities is constantly assessing properties across Western Australia that may be suitable for spot purchase. Some regions have a lack of suitable housing available for spot purchase. Some regions have a lack of suitable housing available for spot purchase due to a higher level of ageing or inappropriate stock. I just read them!  
  
From 1 July 2023 to 31 October 2023, Communities has completed 149 spot purchases across the state.
- (2) Some additional properties may not yet be reflected in this data, as the data often takes time to be transferred wholly into the Department of Communities' systems across regional offices. Under the former Liberal–National government, many hundreds of social homes that counted towards their social housing numbers lay vacant and derelict with no plans to redevelop them, including over 160 uninhabitable apartments in Brownlie Towers alone. The state government inherited this ageing stock and continues to make difficult decisions to close or demolish stock to accommodate the redevelopment of fit-for-purpose social housing. As at 31 October 2023, there were 43 954 social houses.
- (3) Homes delivered through the modular build program are recorded as either “under contract” or “complete”. Modular construction differs from traditional construction in that once a contract is in place, construction can immediately commence. Since the pilot modular build program was announced in late 2021, a total of 159 modular dwellings have been contracted and are under construction, with 61 completed to date.