

PUBLIC HOUSING — WAIT TIMES

1547. Hon Steve Martin to the minister representing the Minister for Housing:

I refer to the public housing wait times, and I ask:

- (a) what is the average wait time to access public housing by region as at 30 July 2023;
- (b) what is the average wait time for the public housing priority waitlist by region as at 30 July 2023;
- (c) please provide the state-wide figure for (a) and (b);
- (d) how many individuals and applications are on the public housing waitlist as at 17 August 2023; and
- (e) how many individuals and applications are on the priority public housing waitlist as at 17 August 2023?

Hon Jackie Jarvis replied:

- (a)–(e) It should be noted that the majority of applicants for public housing have access to some form of accommodation.

Factors that may contribute to longer wait times for individual applicants include circumstances where:

- they have sourced appropriate accommodation yet remain eligible for public housing;
- they have declined offered properties (which can occur multiple times);
- they require specific housing features;
- the type of accommodation they require is limited in their preference zone;
- they spend periods of time incarcerated;
- they have advised of changes in preference zone, family composition and housing need; or
- there are specific medical considerations, a requirement to be in close proximity to support networks and cultural sensitivities.

Applicants with higher than average wait times are generally outliers that have access to housing while remaining eligible for public housing. Individual applicants that have unique and complex housing requirements may skew the average wait turn numbers, especially in regional areas where there is a lower turnover of properties.

Median wait turn times are a more accurate reflection of wait times. The Department of Communities reports on public housing statistics based on point in time data captured as at the end of every month.

| Public Housing Wait Times by Region, as at 31 July 2023 | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------|-----------------|----------------------|-----------------|
| Region | Wait Turn & Priority | | Priority ONLY | |
| | Average in Weeks | Median in Weeks | Average in Weeks | Median in Weeks |
| North Metro | 135 | 105 | 75 | 67 |
| South Metro | 134 | 106 | 73 | 69 |
| Great Southern | 109 | 73 | 60 | 42 |
| Southwest | 150 | 123 | 52 | 38 |
| Goldfields | 101 | 67 | 56 | 41 |
| Midwest/Gascoyne | 133 | 109 | 65 | 61 |
| Pilbara | 139 | 131 | 101 | 99 |
| West Kimberley | 226 | 191 | 118 | 90 |
| Wheatbelt | 78 | 64 | 47 | 31 |
| East Kimberley | 154 | 140 | 121 | 112 |

| Public Housing Wait List by Region as at 31 July 2023 | | | | |
|--|------------------|------------|-----------------|------------|
| Preference Region | Wait Turn | | Priority | |
| | Applications | Applicants | Applications | Applicants |

Extract from *Hansard*
[COUNCIL — Tuesday, 19 September 2023]
p4769a-4770a
Hon Steve Martin; Hon Jackie Jarvis

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|------------------|-------|--------|-------|-------|
| North Metro | 5,790 | 10,298 | 1,479 | 2,744 |
| South Metro | 7,390 | 13,228 | 1,869 | 3,686 |
| Great Southern | 577 | 987 | 193 | 384 |
| Southwest | 1,250 | 1,979 | 249 | 471 |
| Goldfields | 588 | 1,048 | 127 | 274 |
| Midwest/Gascoyne | 1,064 | 2,072 | 188 | 406 |
| Pilbara | 641 | 1,273 | 221 | 518 |
| West Kimberley | 899 | 1,525 | 184 | 381 |
| Wheatbelt | 409 | 836 | 136 | 316 |
| East Kimberley | 376 | 697 | 122 | 267 |

* The number of Wait Turn Applications includes Priority Applications.