

HOUSING — INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

87. Hon Dr BRAD PETTITT to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Housing:

I refer to the thousands of international students to be allowed back into Western Australia, which shows the imminent return of 6 000 students to WA as well as the fact that Perth now has the lowest vacancy rate of all states at 0.6 per cent ahead of the border reopening.

- (1) What is the expected net increase in WA's population once the borders reopen and where will these people live?
- (2) Has the state government done any modelling on the impact of the population change upon the border reopening on WA's 0.6 per cent vacancy rate; and, if yes, can the minister please table the modelling?
- (3) What will the impact of (2) have on —
 - (a) services that are already overwhelmed;
 - (b) impacts on evictions; and
 - (c) impact on homelessness?
- (4) What measures is the government putting in place to prevent an influx of returning Western Australians creating a wave of homelessness?

Hon SUE ELLERY replied:

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

- (1)–(3) The Department of Treasury undertakes a range of economic forecasts on an ongoing basis. Projections relating to population growth in the housing market will be published in the 2022–23 state budget papers.
- (4) The McGowan government is investing more than \$2.5 billion in social housing and homelessness initiatives over the next four years. This includes a recently announced record investment of \$875 million as part of the 2021–22 state budget. This is the single largest one-off investment into social housing in the state's history and will provide an immediate boost to social housing.