

PUBLIC HOUSING — WAITLIST — DISABILITY SUPPORT PENSION

1067. Hon STEVE MARTIN to the minister representing the Minister for Housing:

I refer to the answers to questions on notice 1328 and 1329 asked on 21 March 2023, in which the minister was able to identify the number of applications for the public housing waitlist and the priority public housing waitlist that included one or more individuals receiving the disability support payment.

- (1) As of 31 August 2023 —
 - (a) how many applications on the public housing waitlist included one or more individuals receiving the disability support payment; and
 - (b) how many individuals are represented in the number of applications in (a)?
- (2) As of 31 August 2023 —
 - (a) how many applications on the priority public housing waitlist included one or more individuals receiving the disability support payment; and
 - (b) how many individuals are represented in the number of applications in (a)?

Hon JACKIE JARVIS replied:

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

- (1)–(2) As the member has previously been advised in questions on notice 1328 and 1329, applications containing a disability support payment indicate that at least one person on the application receives this payment. This does not necessarily indicate that all people on the application are in receipt of the payment. The Department of Communities provides multiple pathways, including public rental housing, to those unable to obtain adequate and appropriate housing through the private sector. It should be noted that the majority of applicants have access to some form of accommodation while they wait to be housed. A tight private rental market will reflect an increase in the number of applications for social housing. Many people who may be otherwise housed may seek the safety net of public housing when there is significant pressure in the private rental market. Rental vacancy rates tightened across the country during the COVID-19 pandemic, significantly impacting the housing market. The state government continues to accelerate social housing delivery through a diverse range of reforms, including the modular build, timber frame and spot purchasing programs. As at 31 August 2023, there were 4 082 applications on the public housing waitlist statewide, representing 5 889 people who identified at least one household member as being in receipt of a disability support pension or payment. As at 31 August 2023, there were 1 340 applications on the public housing priority waitlist statewide, representing 1 981 people who identified at least one household member as being in receipt of a disability support pension or payment.