

HOMELESSNESS — BATAVIA MOTOR INNE, GERALDTON

**1277. Hon STEVE MARTIN to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Homelessness:**

I refer to the Batavia Motor Inn in Geraldton, which has been a home for rough sleepers and the site of unsafe behaviours for some time.

- (1) What actions has the Office of Homelessness taken to address the behaviour occurring at the Batavia inn, and which local stakeholders have been consulted on the coordination and implementation of these actions?
- (2) Is the minister aware of staff from the Office of Homelessness or the Department of Communities offering those staying at the Batavia inn \$100 cash to complete a survey?
- (3) If yes to (2), will the minister please table how many people in total were paid to complete the survey?

**Hon SUE ELLERY replied:**

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

- (1) The Batavia Motor Inn is a private property and the government does not have the authority to remove people from private property. The responsibility for preventing trespass and unauthorised occupation of private land rests with the landowners. The state government has written to the property owner of the Batavia inn, urging them to take action to secure the property to prevent trespassing and antisocial behaviour in the derelict buildings on the site, and to address the health and safety hazards present at the site. Any criminal activity or behaviour occurring at the site should be reported to the WA police.
- (2)–(3) The Department of Communities has not offered cash payments to complete a survey.