

PUBLIC HOUSING — WAITLIST

328. Hon JAMES HAYWARD to the minister representing the Minister for Homelessness:

I refer to the homelessness crisis in Western Australia.

- (1) How many families currently on the public waiting list have —
 - (a) one child;
 - (b) two children;
 - (c) three children; and
 - (d) four or more children?
- (2) What is the average waiting time for families to be placed in public housing?
- (3) Is the minister concerned that a lack of stable appropriate housing is harmful to children's development?

Hon JACKIE JARVIS replied:

I thank the member for some notice of the question. The following response has been provided by the Minister for Housing. I note that the response was current as at 16 February, which was the date that the question was asked.

- (1)–(3) The priority of the state government is to see as many Western Australians as possible in safe, secure and sustainable homes. The Western Australian government has always taken pride in being committed to assisting our state's most vulnerable and is investing record amounts to assist Western Australians in line with this commitment.

This information would require a manual extraction of data and considerable resources, as Communities data is reported on the type of accommodation and number of bedrooms required to meet the housing needs of an applicant or their family. Dwelling type does not always correspond with the family structure of the household.

The data below includes applicants who may have turned down a property for legitimate reasons, yet remain eligible for public housing.

As at 31 January 2023, for applicants for family dwelling-type housing, in the past 12 months, the average wait time on the public housing waitlist statewide was 124 weeks. As at 31 January 2023, for applicants for family dwelling-type housing, the average wait time in the past 12 months in the public housing priority waitlist statewide was 70 weeks.