

COMMONWEALTH HEADS OF GOVERNMENT MEETING 2011 — HOMELESS PEOPLE

216. Mr W.J. JOHNSTON to the Premier:

I refer to comments by the police minister last week that for homeless people during the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting, “I will get a tent and a cushion”.

- (1) Are these comments acceptable, or does the Premier favour the Minister for Community Services’ view that homeless people in the city centre will be put into non-government organisation accommodation during this period?
- (2) What additional funds will the Premier commit to NGOs accommodating additional homeless people during this period?
- (3) What security measures will the Premier put in place to ensure those most vulnerable in our community are protected when they are removed from familiar surroundings?

Mr C.J. BARNETT replied:

Before I answer the question, can I also join in expressing sympathy to John D’Orazio’s family and friends. There will be a subsequent opportunity for members to express their views in that regard.

- (1)–(3) With respect to comments made in debate, sometimes statements made by members in this house create a very unfair position when taken out of context. The minister recognises that. With respect to the issue, though, the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting will be concentrated over a three-day period. I do not anticipate it will have a significant impact on homeless people in Perth at all, but if it does, those people will be treated with respect and found accommodation. I do not expect that to be a significant issue during CHOGM at all.