

STANDING COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS PRIOR TO HEARINGS

2022-23 BUDGET ESTIMATES

Department of Communities

The Hon Steve Martin MLC asked:

31. I refer to page 525 of Budget Paper 2, Volume 2, Service number 2 'Homeless Support Services':

- (a) Does the Department receive information from other Departments about the number of people being released from care into homelessness; and
- (b) If available, will the Department please table the number of people released into homelessness from the following settings:
 - (i) Hospitals;
 - (ii) Rehabilitation clinics;
 - (iii) Mental health facilities;
 - (iv) Prisons;
 - (v) Foster or group homes;
 - (vi) Social Housing; and
 - (vii) Other?

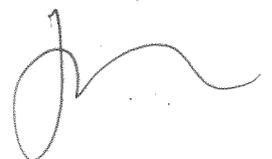
Answer

(a)-(b) The Department of Communities (Communities), working with service providers, is only responsible for services in foster or group homes and social housing. Other State government agencies work with a range of government and non-government service providers to connect people to housing and accommodation where appropriate.

Communities supports young people to 18 years through out of home care on their journey to independent adulthood. Leaving care planning is initiated once a young person turns 15 years old. As a part of this planning, young adults from the age of 18 transitioning from care can access support services through Communities on an as-needs basis until the age of 25.

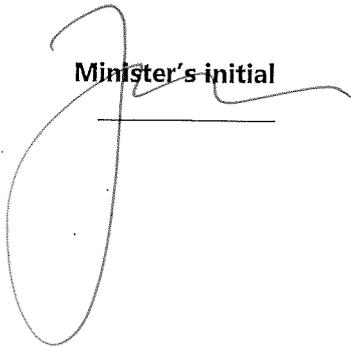
The State Government committed \$37.2 million from 2021-22 to permanently implement the Home Stretch program across the State. Home Stretch offers increased stability and support to care leavers aged 18-21 through providing housing support, pathways to education and employment, mentoring and practical assistance.

Young adults leaving care who are in the category of homeless may not necessarily be rough sleeping. In some circumstances, young adults will elect to live in self-selected, undisclosed living arrangements including transitional accommodation. Between July



2021 and May 2022 three young adults left care into independent and supported accommodation and two left and have been periodically living with family with ongoing support from Communities and through homelessness services. Communities staff make every effort to engage with young adults exiting care and provide information and support to improve their access to housing, health, education, training, and employment.

Communities works with people to sustain tenancies. This includes identifying and providing appropriate wraparound services and supports while in tenancy.


Minister's initial