



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Question on notice

Tuesday, 24 March 2015

2919. Hon Robin Chappie to the Minister for Housing.

I refer to a proposal to establish two Indigenous Visitor Hostels in Broome through the Royalties for Region Program, for which \$13 million was allocated in 2010 to 2013, and I ask:

- (a) has construction of the hostels commenced:
 - (i) if yes to (a), what stage has the construction reached; and
 - (ii) if no to (a), why not and when will construction commence;
- (b) if construction of the hostels has not gone ahead, has the Government set aside the \$13 million for this purpose:
 - (i) if no to (b), why not and what has the \$13 million been used for;
- (c) what has been the State's expenditure on addressing homelessness in the Kimberley region during the past five years, by department;
- (d) is the Minister aware that homelessness has been reported by the Human Rights Alliance as being 17 times the national average and that most of those affected are Aboriginal; and
- (e) could the Minister please indicate the latest consolidated plan for addressing the high levels of homelessness in the Kimberley, and the cost?

Answer

The Department of Housing advises:

- (a) The Broome Aboriginal short stay visitors centre did not proceed.

- (i) Not applicable.

- (ii) Efforts to identify a suitable site for construction of the Broome facility could not be agreed with the Shire of Broome. As a consequence, the State Government allocated \$13 million of Royalties for Regions funding towards the cost of building the Kalgoorlie/Boulder Aboriginal short stay facility and constructing an Aboriginal visitors centre in Derby.

Of the \$13 million, \$1.25 million was added to a Commonwealth Government contribution of \$2 million to construct a 41 bed Aboriginal short stay facility in Kalgoorlie/Boulder. The facility was completed in August 2012.

The remainder of the \$13 million was allocated to fund construction of a 54 bed Aboriginal short stay facility in Derby, which reached completion in July 2014.

- (b) I refer to my answer in (a)(ii).

- (i) Not applicable.

(c)-(e) Homelessness falls within the portfolio of the Minister for Child Protection. However, the Department can advise that since 2010-11 it has constructed 326 dwellings at a cost of \$110 million in the Kimberley and has plans to complete by the end of 2016/17 a further 75 dwellings at a cost of \$32 million.

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