

## LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

~~C346~~ C347

### QUESTION WITHOUT NOTICE (Of which some notice has been given)

Tuesday, 24 March 2015

Hon Robin Chappie to the Leader of the House representing the Premier.

With regard to the threatened closure of remote Aboriginal communities, I refer to media reports in the Guardian Australia, and I ask:

1. What is the Premier's definition of a 'sustainable' community, what is meant by an 'unviable community', how can an unviable community become a sustainable community in order to avoid closure, and will this be communicated to all communities under threat of closure? If not, why not?
2. Given the high rates of juvenile homelessness already recorded and reported in Kimberley regional centres, where will the Government re-settle people who are made homeless by the closure of remote communities?
3. Was the closure of remote Aboriginal communities triggered by financial considerations caused by the withdrawal of Federal funding, as first stated by the Government, or was it for some other reason?

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#### **I thank the Hon. Member for some notice of this question.**

1 – 3. There will be no forced closure of remote communities. The government's focus is on creating a sustainable basis for Aboriginal people to access to education, employment, quality health services, housing and improved community safety. Over the years, billions of dollars have been spent on remote communities by successive governments without clear priorities and with little impact. While the withdrawal of Commonwealth funding brought the issue to a head, this reform is not about savings, it is about reducing the disparity between the living standards of Aboriginal people in remote locations and the rest of the community.

