

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

C861

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

Tuesday, 18 August 2015

Hon Robin Chappie to the Minister for Housing.

I refer to the Minister for Housing's Media Release "Calling all eligible transitional housing tenants" made on Monday, 17 August 2015 regarding the \$33m West Kimberley Transitional Housing Program which expands to Broome and Derby, and ask:

1. Will the Minister provide clarification on the condition of the program that children must attend school, including the attendance rate, and what school age children it applies to?
2. What happens if the school attendance drops or the recipients lose employment after they have purchased the home?
3. What are the options for people who do not have employment?

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

The Housing Authority advises:

1. The Transitional Housing Program promotes 100% attendance rate for school age children in line with the Department of Education standards, which state that it is compulsory for children aged between 5 and 15 years to attend school. Children aged between 16 and 17 years are required to be in school, training or employment. School attendance rates for the West Kimberley Transitional Housing Program are not yet available however, as at June 2015, the school attendance rate for children in the East Kimberley Transitional Housing Program was 96%.
2. The Transitional Housing has a mandatory requirement for the participants to actively engage in the comprehensive support program. The support is tailored to assist all participants and their families to work through and build skills to manage situations as they arise.

Should a participant become unemployed or school attendance significantly drops while in the program, the support provider is required to actively engage with them to assist in regaining employment. If the family is not willing to engage with the support provider and improve the levels of school attendance, this may jeopardise their position in the program.

Once the participant has successfully transitioned into home ownership, they will have developed the financial and life management skills necessary to personally manage their home loan.

3. The Transitional Housing Program is targeted specifically for employed Aboriginal people and their families. Participants who are actively engaged in training will also be considered for the program. People who do not have employment can apply for social housing through their local Housing Authority office.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized loop on the left and a series of vertical and diagonal strokes on the right, resembling the initials 'GH'.