



Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2023–2024

Answer to question taken on notice

Asked by: Ms Chiaka Barry MLA

Addressed to: Alisa Borwick, Executive Group Manager, Housing Assistance

In relation to: Housing assistance fraud allegations

Hearing: 21 February 2025

Uncorrected Proof Transcript pp 25-26

Transcript provided: 27 February 2025

Answer Due: 6 March 2025 5:00PM

Alisa Borwick took on notice the following question(s):

MS BARRY: Thank you. My question is around fraud allegations. So the number of fraud allegations relation to housing assistance increased from 69 to 101 to 2023-2024. I just want to understand what caused that increase? And whether there was a common theme across those allegations?

Ms Borwick: I would have to take that on notice and go through the detail of those.

MS BARRY: Okay.

Ms Borwick: But typically, sorry again, I am not sure what you are reporting from. If it is fraud directed towards—

MS BARRY: So it is housing assistance.

Ms Borwick: So typically it might be people reporting that they are concerned that there are other people living in the house or someone is deriving a benefit that they are not entitled to or eligible for. So sometimes people will report that information. But usually it is – I am sorry, I have just had a message from the team. Predominantly, undeclared residents living in a property.

MS BARRY: Okay. And have you seen – so in the first half of 2024, this half of the year, have you seen an increase, or is that still trending steady?

Ms Borwick: I would have to take that on notice. The other key area is undeclared wages. So somebody – so obviously with public housing we have an income test coming into public housing, and people raising concerns when perhaps they are not paying the rent that they should be as a proportion of their wages.

Yvette Berry MLA: The answer to the Member's questions is as follows:

The non-standard data required to fully respond to this question could not be provided within the given timeframe. Longer timeframes are required for reporting data not already contained in an established report as this requires additional methodology design, quality assurance and appropriate clearance for use by the Data Custodian, particularly when unpublished operational data is the underlying data source.

The number of reports of fraud decreased in the first half of 2024 compared with the second half of 2023.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Social Policy

Signature:

By the [Minister for Homes and New Suburbs, Yvette Berry MLA]

Date:

12/03/25