

SELECT COMMITTEES ON ESTIMATES 2009-2010

Question on Notice

Minister for Disability and Housing

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60. Housing Hunter

Women's refuge

Meredith Hunter MLA: To ask the Minister for Women

The cost of food has steadily been increasing. What assistance is being given to women's refuge organisations to meet rising costs for food?

Minister Hargreaves : The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

All Homelessness Services receive funding which is indexed. Part of the indexation relates to CPI including for the increasing costs for food.

Workforce strategy

Amanda Bresnan MLA: To ask the Minister for Disability

In relation to: the Disability Workforce Strategy.

1. Could you please advise where the Disability Workforce Strategy is up to? Has it been finalised?
2. What achievements have been made since 2007?
3. What is Disability ACT looking to achieve in 2009-10 in relation to its workforce strategy?

Minister Hargreaves : The answer to the Member's question is as follows:--

1. The Disability Workforce Strategy was finalised and released in May 2007. The implementation of the Strategy is managed by a sector Workforce Working Group in consultation with disability service organisations.
2. Through the management of the Workforce Working Group and in cooperation with the sector a range of achievements and initiatives have been delivered including:
 - Two community forums have been held to share information and seek endorsement of proposed and completed work.
 - Disability Support Worker profile provided to www.communityactivecareers.com.au
 - (Community Services and Health Industry Skills Council – CS&HISC – web-based information resource for young people, employers and parents).
 - A newspaper article placed in the Canberra Times, as part of the Canberra Careers Market week, highlighting disability support work as a career choice. Stalls were also at the careers market and the Canberra Institute of Technology open day in early 2008.
 - Vocational Student work experience placements occurring in Disability ACT.
 - Development of a resource package for disability sector employers called “Employment Access and Assistance Guide”.
 - The inaugural Disability Support Workers Awards Event was held on 21 October 2008. A successful evening with three individual and one team award winners, over 80 people attend the event.
 - The Events Reference Group holds two ‘disability support worker events’ per year. In May 2008, an event on ‘Challenging Behaviour’ attracted 110 participants from ACT and surrounding regions. The most recent event was held on 22 May 2009 and was called “Working with Families” and attracted 40 staff from across the sector.
 - Certificate IV in Disability Work program is continuing. Through this initiative Disability ACT funds five (5) places in the non government sector for workers to complete the Certificate IV qualification.

- Working Group representatives attended the Community Services and Health Industry Skills Forum(s) to advocate for the allocation of funded training places for disability qualifications under the new Productivity Places Program.
 - In 2008 Working Group representatives (Disability ACT and Canberra Institute of Technology representatives) actively participated in the review of the nationally accredited community services training package including all disability qualifications.
 - Investigation has been undertaken into workforce data collections system(s), including “Rimfire” – a framework and database to identify and collect workforce data used by the National Disability Services (NDS) National Workforce Project.
3. Disability ACT is a member of the ACT Disability Workforce Working Group. The Group is currently developing priority areas for 2009-10 in consultation with the sector.

Introduction of a companion card

Amanda Bresnan MLA: To ask the Minister for Disability

In relation to: the introduction of a Companion Card (page 227 of budget paper 4)

1. How is the ACT Government working with the non-government sector to implement the Companion Card?
2. How is the ACT Government working with the business sector to implement the Companion Card?
3. Which businesses or services have indicated their potential interest in the Companion Card?
4. Which businesses or services have already committed to the Companion Card?
5. How is the ACT Government working with potential users of the Companion Card to assist in its implementation?

Minister Hargreaves : The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

1. Disability ACT is consulting and liaising with the non government sector to ensure the Companion Card is being effectively promoted ahead of the Scheme's launch.
2. In January 2009 Disability ACT engaged a consultant to formally approach businesses in the ACT to become Companion Card Business Affiliates. Disability ACT has also developed a partnership with BLITS - Business Leaders – Innovative Thoughts and Solutions, to promote the Companion Card across the Business, Sports and Arts sectors. Disability ACT also promoted the Scheme in the media with the assistance of the ACT Business Council and the Disability Advisory Council.
3. The Following businesses organisations have been contacted and have indicated they are interested
 1. Action Buses
 2. Active Leisure Centre, Erindale
 3. ANU Filmgroup
 4. ANU Sport & Recreation Association
 5. Ausdance ACT Inc.
 6. Australian Chamber Orchestra
 7. Australian National Botanic Gardens
 8. Belconnen Community Centre - Disability and Age and Community Transport
 9. Canberra Dance Theatre
 10. Canberra Darters & AIS Darters – Netball
 11. Canberra Youth Theatre
 12. CSIRO Discovery Centre
 13. Indoor Sports Kambah
 14. Jigsaw Theatre Company
 15. Kaleen Indoor Sports
 16. Lakeside Leisure Centre, Tuggeranong
 17. Lever Coachlines
 18. National Archives of Australia
 19. National Film and Sound Archives

20. National Portrait Gallery
 21. Parliament House
 22. University of Canberra
 23. Warehouse Circus
4. The following businesses have agreed to affiliate with the program:
1. Airliner Shuttle Bus to the City (run by Deane's)
 2. ANU School of Art Gallery
 3. Australian Institute of Sport
 4. Australian Science Festival
 5. Australian War Memorial
 6. Brumbies
 7. Canberra Contemporary Art Space
 8. Canberra Indoor Rock Climbing
 9. Canberra Symphony Orchestra
 10. Craft ACT: Craft and Design Centre
 11. Deane's Buslines Pty Limited
 12. Dendy - Syd Head Office
 13. [Hellenic Club of Canberra](#)
 14. Hoyts - Syd Head Office
 15. National Convention Centre
 16. National Gallery of Australia
 17. National Library of Australia
 18. National Museum of Australia
 19. [National Press Club](#)
 20. National Zoo & Aquarium
 21. Old Parliament House
 22. Questacon - The National Science and Technology Centre
 23. Royal Australian Mint
5. Disability ACT has developed a range of information and promotional material for potential Companion Cards users. This has included a new accessible website providing information and a form for people to register their interest.

Information about the Scheme is also being widely marketed through the disability sector and the general media with assistance from the Disability Advisory Group.

Sustainability

Amanda Bresnan MLA: To ask the Minister for Disability

In relation to: sustainability reporting for DHCS

Amanda Bresnan MLA: To ask the Minister for Disability

In relation to: sustainability reporting for DHCS

1. How much energy is it estimated the Department of Disability, Housing and Community Services (the whole Department) used for office functions in 2008-09 per FTE and /or per square metre of office space?

Answer: Data not available.

2. How does this compare with the Commonwealth benchmark/target of 7,500 megajoules per person per year?

Answer: Data not available.

3. How will the Department contribute to meeting the ACT Government's target of zero net emissions? What steps are in place to reduce Departmental energy use?

Answer: This will be managed through the Department of Environment, Climate Change, Energy and Water's (DECCEW) overall strategy for ACT Government.

4. How much is the Department spending on energy efficiency measures?

Answer: Same as 3

5. Is the Department eligible for the ACT Government energy efficiency loan fund?
 - a. If not, why not?
 - b. If yes, has it applied, or will it?

Answer: Yes.

6. How much waste is it estimated the Department generated per FTE in 2008-09?

Answer: Not available.

7. What systems does the Department have in place for recycling of waste?

Answer: Paper recycling with a private contractor. Cartridge/Toner Recycling as part of the ACT Government contract.

8. How much water is it estimated that the Department used in 2008-09? How much water will the Department use in 2009-10?

Answer: Data not available.

9. Does the Department use any benchmarks to assess its environment performance? If yes, please detail.

Answer: No. See previous question.

10. What financial savings has the Department made to date from improvements in its environmental resource efficiency?

Answer: Any baseline data has not been gathered at this stage.

11. Does the Department have a target for future reductions – across energy, water, waste?

Answer: No. See answer to Question 8.

12. Does the Department have a Sustainability Action Plan or a Resource Management Plan?

Answer: This is subject to a whole of government approach co-ordinated through DECCEW.

13. What other initiatives / measures is the Department undertaking to become carbon neutral as required under Action 2 of Weathering the Change?

Answer: Reduction in Vehicle Fleet by leasing low cost fuel efficient diesel vehicles.

14. Can the Department please provide all these answers in terms of office use and other, recognising that some Agencies have specific service delivery needs that are not comparable to others– ie schools, hospitals, public facilities

Answer: see above.

Reduction in funding

Amanda Bresnan MLA: To ask the Minister for Disability

In relation to: a reduction in funding.

1. Are any government or non-government disability related programs or services had a reduction in funding from 2008-09 to 2009-10?
2. If yes,
 - a. Which areas/organisations are they?
 - b. What service is affected?
 - c. What was the funding reduction from 2008-09 to 2009-10?

Minister Hargreaves : The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

1. No services have had funding reductions.

Housing tenants and rough sleepers

Amanda Bresnan MLA: To ask the Minister for Housing

In relation to: services to housing tenants and rough sleepers

1. In reference to the Building Housing Partnerships initiative, Community Outreach for Rough Sleepers, and Housing and Accommodation Support initiative to be delivered by community organisations, what process will be followed to select the community organisations?

Minister Hargreaves : The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

The Department of Disability, Housing and Community Services will comply with the requirements of the Government Procurement Act.

A place to call home

Amanda Bresnan MLA: To ask the Minister for Housing

In relation to: 'A place to call home' initiative

The Commonwealth has provided \$5 m over 5 years under the 'A Place to Call Home' initiative to construct around 20 additional dwellings. According to Minister Plibersek's media release of 13 May 2008, the ACT will match Commonwealth funding.

1. Has the ACT Government allocated matching funding in the Budget? If yes where is the funding provided (line item if available)?
2. How will individuals/families be selected to be allocated these additional dwellings?

Minister Hargreaves: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:-

1. In the third appropriation for 2008-09 the ACT Government allocated \$2.5 million for the purchase of the first 10 blocks of land under the *A Place to Call Home* joint ACT Government and Australian Government homelessness initiative. That amount is reflected on page 272 of the 2009-10 Budget Paper No. 4.
2. The dwellings under the *A Place to Call Home* initiative will be situated within the existing Homelessness Services system. They will be allocated to families that are receiving services in that service system and that have been identified as being able to move in to stand alone properties with appropriate support and eventually to move on to independent tenancies in public housing.

The Causeway

Amanda Bresnan MLA: To ask the Minister for Housing

In relation to: the Causeway

1. What are the latest developments (last 3 months) in regard to public housing at the Causeway?
2. Could Federal stimulus funding support the development of an integrated project with a mix of public and private outcomes?

Minister Hargreaves : The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

1. Officers from the Department of Disability, Housing and Community Services and the ACT Planning and Land Authority met with residents of the Causeway on 26 May 2009 as part of the continuing consultation on the proposed development of Eastlake. Public housing properties in the Causeway continue to be maintained and client service visits are being undertaken.
2. No. The timing required to deliver such a project would be outside the Federal Government's timeframes for Stage 2.

Stimulus funding impact

Amanda Bresnan MLA: To ask the Minister for Housing

In relation to: the long term budgetary implications of the stimulus funding related social housing

1. What are the long term budgetary implications for Housing ACT having an increase in stock such as this?
2. Will it mean Housing ACT will become more expensive to run?
3. Will it mean that Housing ACT could over time increase its rental income, and so become economically more viable?
4. Does it mean that Housing ACT will have to hand on more of the stock to non-government social housing providers?

Minister Hargreaves: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

1. There are two aspects to the stimulus funding. Firstly, the stimulus funding will increase the number and value of public housing dwellings in the territory. Initially, the funding will increase the value of public housing assets by almost \$100 million. Secondly, given the focus on housing those families with high and complex needs and who have Centrelink pensions as their main source of income, the rental receipts from the additional houses will not cover the marginal direct costs associated with the additional properties, inclusive of depreciation. That means that for these properties Housing ACT will be operating at a loss. However, after excluding depreciation the additional properties will generate positive net cash inflows.
2. The increase in property numbers will increase the costs of operations as Housing ACT will be required to pay all statutory rates and charges in the same manner as any other landlord in the Territory as well as insure, depreciate and manage the dwellings. With the increase in dwellings, additional resources may also be needed to manage the tenancies that occur with the increase in properties. Noting that on a cash basis these costs will be offset by the revenue.
3. The impact upon viability depends on many factors, including the amount of additional rent generated from the properties and received from tenants compared to the additional costs associated with owning the properties. However, the increase in rental income does not necessarily improve the long term viability of public housing as generally the rent derived from high and complex needs tenants is not sufficient to cover the full costs associated with owning the properties including depreciation.
4. Bilateral discussions are continuing with the Australian Government on the percentage of properties provided under the stimulus package to be transferred to community housing providers. In the first instance, the outcome of the call for proposals process currently

underway will set the base for the level of properties, from the Nation Building Jobs Plan Stimulus Package (NBJS), to be held by the community sector.

Stimulus funding construction

Amanda Bresnan MLA: To ask the Minister for Housing

In relation to: advice on construction of the stimulus funding related social housing

1. Have you sort advice on making exemplary green design buildings? And if yes, who has provided you with advice?
2. Are you limiting your vision to 6 stars or are you looking at other or extra innovations?
3. Have you taken actions to purchase low emission materials and good bulk prices? And if yes, what actions have you taken?

Minister Hargreaves : The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

1. Yes. On 24 April 2009 a consultation forum was held on energy efficiency and low emission dwellings. The forum was attended by representatives from the Sustainability Advice Team, Australian and New Zealand Solar Energy Society and local architects with a strong interest in energy efficient dwellings.
2. No. The 6 star energy rating and the other energy efficiency requirements under Stage 2 of the Nation Building and Jobs Plan initiative will be met. As part of the design process, and as appropriate, the opportunity of exceeding the 6 star rating will be considered.
3. Yes. Housing ACT has negotiated the bulk purchase of energy efficient appliances. Housing ACT will also supply the appliances to the builders, as necessary, that are constructing the dwellings under the Nation Building initiative.

Stimulus funding construction

BRENDAN SMYTH: To ask the Minister for Disability and Housing:

In relation to Housing ACT:

1. (a) What amount of funds is being provided for social housing in the ACT under the Housing Asset Assistance Program; (b) what proportion of these funds is being provided by the ACT Government.
2. What requirements, in addition to the intervention guidelines and the draft sub-lease, govern the provision and management of these funds by community housing providers.
3. (a) Are community housing providers using funds under this Program expected to operate as if this Program is part of the private housing market; (b) if so, why is this so; (c) if not, why are the provisions of the draft sub-lease drafted as if this Program was being delivered in the private housing market.
4. Why have changes been proposed to the draft sub-lease that has to be agreed to by each community housing provider.
5. (a) What is the relationship between the Commonwealth Government's corporations legislation and the intervention guidelines; (b) if a community housing provider has been established under the Commonwealth Government's corporations legislation, is the Commissioner for Social Housing able to appoint people to the board of that provider as set out in the intervention guidelines; (c) if a community housing provider has been established under the Commonwealth's corporations legislation, is the Commissioner for Social Housing able to appoint an administrator to manage the affairs of that provider as set out in the intervention guidelines.
6. On what basis can the Commissioner for Social Housing intervene in the activities of a community housing provider when that provider may be involved in other activities that are quite unrelated to the provision of community housing.
7. Why does the draft sub-lease, in clause 4, require providers to pay rent in advance.
8. What is the basis for the ACT Government, under clause 4 of the draft sub-lease, being able to increase rents, which have to be paid by the provider, when the provider may not be able to increase actual rents until the terms of the rental agreement with a tenant are satisfied.
9. Why are providers required, under clause 5 of the draft sub-lease, to pay for services delivered to tenants that should be charges that should be paid by tenants.
10. Why are providers, under the terms of clause 7 of the draft sub-lease, subject to the threat of an open ended cost for legal expenses for actions taken by the ACT Government.
11. How can the provider be expected, under the terms of clause 12 of the draft sub-lease, to pay for all the actions set out in this clause, such as replacing white goods and similar articles, within the limit of the funding provided for housing under this Program.
12. How can the provider, under the terms of clause 14 of the draft sub-lease, pay, in addition, for the insurance specified by the draft sub-lease.
13. (a) How many community housing providers have signed the sub-lease with the ACT Government; (b) how many community housing providers have indicated that they are prepared to sign the sub-lease; (c) how many community housing providers have told the ACT Government of their concerns about the content of the draft sub-lease; (d) what action has been taken by the ACT Government in response to these concerns.
14. (a) Have any community housing providers said that they are not able to sign the draft sub-lease in its present form; (b) if this is the case, what reasons have been given for their decision.
15. (a) If a community housing provider signs the sub-lease, what funding will be provided to the provider to manage the properties that are provided under the terms of the Program; (b) what activities are these funds meant to pay for; (c) is there any provision for community housing

providers to receive an additional payment for expenses incurred in managing these properties; (d) if not, why not.

Minister Hargreaves : The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

1. (a & b) The Housing Asset Assistance Program provides for the leasing of properties owned by Housing ACT. No funds are provided under the Program.
2. See answer to Question Number 1.
3. (a), (b) and (c) See answer to Question Number 1.
4. The draft sub-lease has not yet been agreed to by Community Housing Providers and is still subject to consultation with providers. Changes are proposed to properly reflect that the Housing ACT property is being leased to an organisation, which will then provide the property to its own tenants.
5. (a), (b) and (c). Refer to Division 4A.3, Section 25S, Clause (7) of the Housing Assistance Act 2007. “This section is declared to be a corporations legislation displacement provision for the Corporations Act, section 5G (Avoiding direct inconsistency arising between the Corporations legislation and State and Territory laws).”
6. Refer to Division 4A.3, Section 25S of the Housing Assistance Act 2007.
7. See answer to Question Number 4.
8. See answer to Question Number 4.
9. See answer to Question Number 4.
10. See answer to Question Number 4.
11. See answer to Question Number 4.
12. See answer to Question Number 4.
13. (a) Nil
(b) The draft sub-lease is still subject to consultation with providers.
(c) Two.
(d) The draft sub-lease is still subject to consultation with providers.
14. See answer to Questions Number 4 and Number 13.
15. See answer to Questions Number 1 and Number 4.

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Expenditure – advertising

Zed Seselja : To ask the Minister for Disability, Housing and Community Services

In relation to : Expenditure in the Department of Disability, Housing and Community Services

1. How much has been budgeted for 2009-10 for advertising and marketing?
2. For 2009-10, provide details - including costs, length of contract, name of contractor, services provided, how they will be awarded (tender etc.) - of any planned advertising and marketing contracts.

Minister Hargreaves : The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

Under the administrative arrangements there is no such Minister as the Minister for Disability, Housing and Community Services. As such, the Minister is responding in his capacity as the Minister for Disability and Housing.

1. & 2. Costing for the 2009-10 financial year is not available until the 2009-10 budget is passed by the Legislative Assembly.

Expenditure – hospitality

Zed Seselja : To ask the Minister for Disability, Housing and Community Services

In relation to : Expenditure in the Department of Disability, Housing and Community Services

6. How much has been budgeted for 2009-10 for hospitality?

Minister Hargreaves : The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

Under the administrative arrangements there is no such Minister as the Minister for Disability, Housing and Community Services. As such, the Minister is responding in his capacity as the Minister for Disability and Housing.

1. Costing for the 2009-10 financial year is not available until the 2009-10 budget is passed by the Legislative Assembly.

Expenditure – rent

Zed Seselja : To ask the Minister for Disability, Housing and Community Services

In relation to : Expenditure in the Department of Disability, Housing and Community Services

1. How much has been budgeted for rent in the 2009-10 budget?
2. For 2009-10, provide details - including costs, length of contract, property size and location – of any proposed rental properties.

Minister Hargreaves : The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

Under the administrative arrangements there is no such Minister as the Minister for Disability, Housing and Community Services. As such, the Minister is responding in his capacity as the Minister for Disability and Housing.

1. & 2. Costing for the 2009-10 financial year is not available until the 2009-10 budget is passed by the Legislative Assembly.

Expenditure – training

Zed Seselja : To ask the Minister for Disability, Housing and Community Services

In relation to : Training Expenditure in the Department of Disability, Housing and Community Services

1. How much has been budgeted for 2009-10 for staff training?
2. Detail any training courses that are already planned for 2009-10.
3. For each training course in (2), what are the objectives of the course?
4. For each training course in (2), what is the cost of each course?
5. For each course in (2), detail all staff – from both the Minister’s office and the department – who will participate.

Minister Hargreaves : The answer to the Member’s question is as follows:–

Under the administrative arrangements there is no such Minister as the Minister for Disability, Housing and Community Services. As such, the Minister is responding in his capacity as the Minister for Disability and Housing.

- 1.- 5. Costing for the 2009-10 financial year is not available until the 2009-10 budget is passed by the Legislative Assembly.

Expenditure – travel

Zed Seselja : To ask the Minister for Disability, Housing and Community Services

In relation to : Travel Expenditure in the Department of Disability, Housing and Community Services

1. How much has been budgeted for 2009-10 for:
 - a. Interstate travel
 - b. Overseas travel
2. Detail any trips that are already planned for 2009-10.
3. For each trip in (2), what are the objectives of the trip?
4. For each trip in (2), detail all staff – from both the Minister’s office and the department – who will participate in the trip.

Minister Hargreaves : The answer to the Member’s question is as follows:–

Under the administrative arrangements there is no such Minister as the Minister for Disability, Housing and Community Services. As such, the Minister is responding in his capacity as the Minister for Disability and Housing.

1. – 4. Costing for the 2009-10 financial year is not available until the 2009-10 budget is passed by the Legislative Assembly.

Expenditure – web hosting

Zed Seselja : To ask the Minister for Disability, Housing and Community Services

In relation to : Expenditure in the Department of Disability, Housing and Community Services

1. How much has been budgeted for 2009-10 for web design and web hosting?
2. How much was spent on these services in 2008-09?
3. For 2008-09, provide details - including costs, length of contract, name of contractor, services provided, how they were awarded (tender etc.) - of any web design and web hosting contract.
4. For 2009-10, provide details - including costs, length of contract, name of contractor, services provided, how they will be awarded (tender etc.) - of any planned web design and web hosting contract.

Minister Hargreaves : The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

Under the administrative arrangements there is no such Minister as the Minister for Disability, Housing and Community Services. As such, the Minister is responding in his capacity as the Minister for Disability and Housing.

1. Costing for the 2009-10 financial year is not available until the 2009-10 budget is passed by the Legislative Assembly.
2. Web hosting is provided by InTACT, on Mysource matrix, and cost approximately \$16,500. This included the hosting of numerous sub-divisions of the Department of Disability, Housing and Community Services; such as Ageing, Housing, Disability, Therapy, Women/WiRC, Seniors card, Child and Family Services, OMATSIA, and OCYFS.
3. Web hosting is provided by InTACT for a cost of approximately \$16,500. Web design and editing is conducted within the Department.
4. Web hosting is with InTACT, within the ACT Government recommended MySource Matrix environment, and will cost approximately \$16,500. Plans to redesign the DHCS Internet site will be completed within the Department.

Narrabundah Long Stay Caravan Park

Caroline Le Couteur MLA: To ask the Minister for Disability and Housing
In regard to the Narrabundah Long Stay Caravan Park

1. to provide a breakdown of the \$600k proposed capital expenditure, including the \$450k expended to date and the \$150k projected expenditure for 2009/10
2. what is the protocol to alert neighbours to the building plans of residents/owners before it is too late to amend them
3. whether issues relating to objectionable and inappropriate site use (too many old cars, for example) are now in hand.

Minister Hargreaves: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:-

1. The \$600,000 is to be spent on an upgrade to the fire main, road works and a building compliance check of the structures and facilities at the Narrabundah Long Stay Caravan Park. Work on the fire main is substantially complete and will cost in the order of \$140,000. The road works are expected to cost in the order of \$100,000 with the remaining funds being spent on the building compliance checks. The Budget Papers indicated that estimated expenditure pre 2009/2010 was \$450,000. By the end of 2008/2009 expenditure of \$200,000 is expected.
2. Owners of sites must seek approval for any building alteration from Housing ACT in the first instance (approval in principle). The erection of a building / fence is subject to a number of conditions, including the owner obtaining all necessary approvals from the ACT Planning and Land Authority (ACTPLA). Owners of sites also must follow the approval process as outlined in clause 3.6 of the Occupancy Agreement. A newsletter was also distributed to all residents/owners in March 2009 requesting that owners consider their neighbours before making any building alteration to their sites.
3. Housing ACT has been working with residents in an effort to address the issue of excessive vehicles at a number of sites. Housing ACT obtained orders from the ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal (ACAT) against a resident in relation to motor vehicles and has also served further notices on several other residents who have been found to be in breach of their Occupancy Agreement.

Retrofitting public housing

Caroline Le Couteur MLA : To ask the Minister for Disability and Housing

In relation to: Retrofitting public housing for improved energy and water efficiency

1. How has the process to make existing stock more water and energy efficient been affected by the Federal Stimulus funds?
2. Is Housing ACT now able to take a more flexible approach to the retrofitting of homes, and make judgements on the needs of individual houses, or does it follow an inflexible rules based approach, such as offering wall insulation for example in four bedroom but not three bedroom homes.
3. Has the retrofitting program been accelerated in 2009/10?
4. Has the ACT Government increased its investment in retrofitting public houses from 2008/09 to 2009/10, and if so, what is that increased investment

Minister Hargreaves : The answer to the Member's question is as follows:-

1. Stimulus funding has been used to retrofit properties that would normally have been redeveloped or sold. Where appropriate, energy efficiency improvements have been included in the retrofit works.
2. Housing ACT has been as flexible as possible when carrying out energy efficiency improvements in order to ensure that the limited funds available are used most effectively.
3. No.
4. The funding for energy efficiency improvements is consistent with the Budget allocations in 2008/09 and 2009/10. Additional properties have been retrofitted for energy improvements as part of the works carried out as part of the Stimulus funding. New dwellings that are constructed under the Stimulus initiative will have energy efficiency appliances installed and be designed to achieve a 6 star energy rating, where appropriate.

Self employed Housing ACT residents

Caroline Le Couteur MLA: To ask the Minister for Disability and Housing

In regard to Housing ACT residents who are self employed

1. Noting the concern that rent arrears may rise during the recession, what steps has Housing ACT taken to ensure that the circumstances of self employed residents are considered sympathetically
2. Does Housing ACT take its lead from ATO, from Centrelink, or from other social housing providers when assessing the business income and expenditure of self employed residents

Minister Hargreaves : The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

- 1 Housing ACT treats all tenants sympathetically when they fall into rental arrears. This includes tenants who are self-employed. In particular, a practice of “early intervention” has been adopted to assist tenants in these circumstances. Housing ACT mitigates this debt at the early stages through the provision of rental arrears agreements which allows the tenant to enter into an agreement for the payment of rent plus arrears.
- 2 Housing rental rebates are provided where the market rent for a property is more than 25% of a tenant's household income.

QTON Gallop Report

Ms Le Couteur: To ask the Minister for Disability and Housing

In relation to: the Gallop Report.

Are there any substantive recommendations which you have not been able to meet?

Minister Hargreaves : The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

No. The Board of Inquiry made a total of 50 recommendations for reform. As at June 2009, of the 50 recommendations:

- 7 recommendations were not agreed or noted and did not require action; and 43 recommendations have been completed or subsumed into ongoing business

QTON multicultural

Ms Le Couteur: To ask the Minister for Disability and Housing

In relation to: Multicultural Youth Services.

- a) What does MYS do;
- b) How much is this service used; and
- c) Who uses this service

Minister Hargreaves: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

- a) MYS is funded by the Department of Disability, Housing and Community Services to employ a full time equivalent Project Officer to effectively address the gap for case management for employment, education, accommodation and community participation for 22 to 25 years old refugees and migrants in the ACT.
- b) On 9 June 2009, MYS reported that they see 30 clients per day.
- c) The funding is for services for refugees and migrants in the ACT aged 22 to 25 years and for at-risk culturally and linguistically diverse young people aged 12 to 25 years of age.

600 Disability and Housing Smyth

QTON Policy Staffing

Mr Smyth: To ask the Minister for Disability and Housing

In relation to: Policy Staffing.

How much of the funding goes to the central policy team?

Minister Hargreaves : The answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

\$746,504 or 7 FTE positions