

**Question on Notice
No. 162
Asked on 18 March 2014**

MR PITT ASKED THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING AND PUBLIC WORKS (MR MANDER)—

QUESTION:

With reference to the department's transition of property and tenancy management from government to registered community housing providers—

- (1) How many Department of Housing area offices will be closed?
- (2) How many staff will be affected?
- (3) Will any staff be fired as a result of the closure of the area office when the management rights are transferred?
- (4) Will government employees transferred to a non-government organisation, such as a community housing provider, retain their same conditions and salary?

ANSWER:

- (1) The Government's Housing 2020 Strategy includes an objective that at least 90% of social housing stock will be managed by the not for profit sector by 2020. This will require significant capacity building to that sector as providers will be required to offer at least the same, if not a better level of service. Whether the new service provider elects to operate from the existing Housing Service Centre location or another location, they will be required to meet a range of service delivery obligations as part of their contract with the State.
- (2) Our staff are highly valued and will continue to make a valuable contribution to service delivery in the future and their knowledge and capability will be key contributors to the successful transition to the non government sector. Regular communication will occur with staff to ensure they are fully informed about the changes and how they are impacted. Community housing providers want to employ departmental housing staff.
- (3) No staff will be fired.
- (4) The terms of any staff transfer arrangements will be negotiated between the department and the non government provider as part of the contract negotiation process for the management transfer.