

Estimates Committee 2009 Questions Taken On Notice

(16/6/2009 to 19/6/2009)

Date: 17/06/2009 Output: 2.0 - Housing Services
Sub Output: 2.3 - Govt Employee Housing
Subject: Housing stock - private rental market - number of dwellings leased from public servants

From: Mr Adam Giles to Hon Robert Knight
Department of Local Government and Housing

Question: **6-13**
There are proposed to be 720 government houses for public servants and their families in urban locations in the Northern Territory; 431 are under head leasing arrangements, where government rents off the private market and then sub-rents out.

How many of these 431 properties rented are owned by current Territory public servants, and if I may add to the end of that, minister, the end of the question on notice, how many people working in Parliament House own any of those 431 properties? That is the end of the questions for Output 2.3.

Madam DEPUTY CHAIR: Are you prepared to take that question on notice, minister?

Dr BURNS: I wish to clarify how you would ascertain that data. Would it not potentially breach privacy legislation and how would you ascertain that the spouse of someone working in Parliament House. It is an open ended question. I am not sure whether you can get the data and that would be the issue that I would raise.

Mr KNIGHT: We will highlight the probability that we may not, through privacy reasons, be able to obtain all that data.

Mr GILES: Speaking to the point of order, Madam Deputy Chair. The Territory government, that has the head leases or has the lease documents, I understand would have on the lease documents the names of the people who are the actual owners of the properties. They already have that information. I am not looking for the names of the people. I want to know how many of those properties are owned by public servants. It is not breaching privacy, because you already have that data.

Mr KNIGHT: What was that part on the end of it?

Mr GILES: How many public servants and how many people who work within parliament own any of those properties?

Mr KNIGHT: Parliament defined as?

Mr GILES: Who work in this building?

Dr BURNS: Does that include contractors?

Mr GILES: Public servants. I have mentioned public servants. We will leave it at public servants.

Mr KNIGHT: We will attempt to get that information, as long as it does not breach any privacy issues and our capacity to actually question where people actually work.

Answer:

Answered On:

Answer:

The Department does not request employer information from lessors and as such, the information required to answer this question cannot be ascertained.