

ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

Question Taken on Notice

Question Number: 8-13

Output Number: 2-3

Date: 22/06/2022

From: Mr Bill Yan

To: Hon Selena Uibo

Portfolio: Housing & Homelands

Agency: Territory Families, Housing and Communities

Subject: Longest time spent on remote housing waitlist

QUESTION

What is the longest time a person has spent on the waitlist to gain access to remote housing?

ANSWER

Public housing Dwellings in Remote Communities, Town Camps and community living areas are allocated according to recommendations by local community Housing Reference Groups, which prioritise applicants according to need. Eligibility criteria include acceptance of the applicant as a permanent community resident.

Tenancy staff make periodic contact via face-to-face, telephone or letter to check that applicants still wish to remain on the waiting list. However, this can be a challenge when contact details change and are not provided to the Department of Territory Families, Housing and Communities (the Department).

As at 31 March 2022, the longest a new applicant for remote public housing has spent on the wait list is 160 months. The Department has been unable able to identify their current address or contact details, but will continue to make efforts to contact the applicant to identify appropriate housing options.

The Department is also reviewing the process for housing applications to ensure accuracy of the waitlist and improved identification of housing needs in our towns and communities.