



**Minister for Housing  
Minister for Children & Early Childhood Development**

Hon Wendy Lovell MLC

50 Lonsdale Street  
GPO Box 4057  
Melbourne Victoria 3001  
DX210081  
www.dhs.vic.gov.au  
Telephone: (03) 9096 0301  
Facsimile: (03) 9096 8779

e274419

Mr Philip R Davis MP  
Chairman  
Public Accounts and Estimates Committee  
Parliament House  
Spring Street  
EAST MELBOURNE VIC 3002

Dear Mr Davis *Phil*

Thank you for your letter seeking further information on any outstanding matters compiled from questions taken on notice at the 2012-13 Budget estimates hearing into my Housing portfolio.

The Department of Human Services has provided advice on this matter and my response is enclosed. I trust that the information will address the Committee's needs.

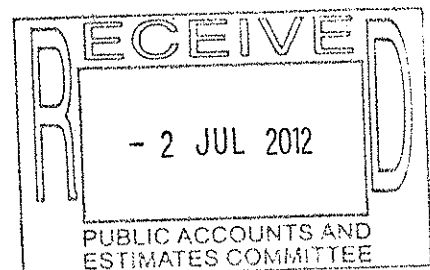
If you or your staff require any further information, please contact Mr James MacIsaac, Acting Director, Integrated Planning and Reporting on 9096 1093.

Yours sincerely

**Hon Wendy Lovell MLC  
Minister for Housing**

26/6/2012

Encl



**ATTACHMENT:                   QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE AND  
FURTHER INFORMATION AGREED TO BE  
SUPPLIED AT THE HEARINGS**

---

**HOUSING PORTFOLIO**

1. Please provide figures for 2011-12 and 2012-13 of the number of dwellings that have been reconfigured by being combined with other dwellings to form larger homes.

*(Page 11 of the portfolio transcript)*

There are a number of programs that have been running for many years that involve the reconfiguration of dwellings.

One program is the conversion program where a number of flats or bedrooms are either reconfigured or combined to increase bedroom numbers or size of units. These types of conversions are undertaken in both high-rise and rooming house accommodation and usually convert bed-sitter dwellings to either one-bedroom or two-bedroom dwellings and convert rooming house rooms to bed-sitter accommodation. The types vary in bedroom number and size, and conversions are dependent on availability.

Another program modifies a property by adding an additional bedroom.

In the past a small pilot program of flexible housing was funded that converted two high-rise three-bedroom dwellings into one dwelling catering for six bedrooms. Additionally a new low-rise development constructed two two-bedroom flats next to each other on a floor with interconnecting doors. These options allow for both scaling up or down dependent on the requirements of the day. The larger conversions are dependent on availability and unit location within a high-rise.

As part of the redevelopment program, the units in larger redevelopments that are demolished are normally not replaced in the same year or with the same configuration. In some redevelopments the time between demolition and replacement can be a number of years.

In 2011-12 115 bed-sitter dwellings and three one-bedroom dwellings are expected to be reconfigured to 54 one-bedroom dwellings and 11 two-bedroom dwellings. In addition, 57 rooming house rooms are expected to be reconfigured to 36 self-contained single units.

Further, in 2011-12 six three-bedroom dwellings, one four-bedroom dwelling and two five-bedroom dwellings are expected to be reconfigured to six four-bedroom dwellings, one five-bedroom dwelling and two six-bedroom dwellings.

In 2012-13 the Department of Human Services plans to convert 152 bed-sitter dwellings and 10 one-bedroom dwellings to two self-contained single units, 62 one-bedroom dwellings, 16 two-bedroom dwellings. In addition, 33 rooming house rooms are planned to be converted to 26 self-contained single units.

