

Minister for Housing and Planning
Minister for Infrastructure and Transport
Minister for Local Government

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04 AUG 2026

Ms Kristie Johnston MP
Independent Member for Clark

C/- HAProcedure@parliament.tas.gov.au

Dear Ms Johnston

In Parliament on 17 June 2026 you asked the following question:

Minister, a constituent has raised questions about your Estimates evidence that nearly one in five public housing properties tests positive for methamphetamines and that remediation averages 285 days. There is an inconsistency in that where meth has been used, decontamination only takes a few days. An average of 285 days points to the level of contamination associated with production, yet it is incredible that one in five public housing properties are meth labs. The figures point two ways - either one in five really do need nine months of remediation, meaning the minister is alleging widespread drug manufacturing in public housing and should show the evidence, or they don't, and the figure has been badly overstated, leaving tenants under a cloud they don't deserve. These Tasmanians already face stigma over their income and postcode. Will the Minister clarify what the one-in-five figure actually measures and correct the public record?

On 30 June 2026 there were 67 vacant social housing properties undergoing work relating to testing for, or remediation of contaminants relating to illicit drug residue. These properties are all in varying stages of testing and repair.

It is important to note the number of homes vacant, and proportion of those undergoing testing and remediation at any given time is not a static number. The information provided today relates specifically to 30 June 2026 and proportions of dwellings affected will fluctuate.

In the three months to 30 June 2026, 112 social housing properties had vacant maintenance initiated. Of those, 18 returned positive presumptive testing and were referred to the insurer for further testing and remediation if required, representing a 16 per cent rate of referral.

Claims are lodged with the insurer when contamination is indicated by presumptive testing. The average time taken to complete a claim from lodgement to file close is 285 days.

The guidelines used to inform decontamination of a property apply a consistent, health-based response, regardless of how contamination occurred. Indicators of clandestine drug production are rarely present in vacated properties, rather properties with significant levels of contamination may be the result of prolonged or intensive drug use within a home.

I trust this response answers the query of your constituent.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Kerry Vincent', written in a cursive style.

Hon Kerry Vincent MLC
Minister for Housing and Planning