



4 November 2009

Antisocial Behaviour Not On In Public Housing

Dr Mike Nahan, the Member for Riverton said bad behaviour would no longer be tolerated in Western Australia's public housing system following the introduction of a new Disruptive Behaviour Management Strategy for public housing announced by the Treasurer, Troy Buswell.

"Changes to the Residential Tenancies Act will better enable the State Government to deliver on its responsibility for the safety and security of social housing tenants," said Dr Nahan.

"Providing a safe and secure environment in State-funded houses is a responsibility which is shared by the Government and tenants. Currently, there is a huge waiting list for public housing but there is little that can be done to those who are abusing the system. Once this legislation is passed, they will face serious consequences."

Dr Nahan said the State Government would be able to apply to the Magistrates Court for the termination of a tenancy agreement in extreme cases where the tenant has repeatedly allowed the premises to be used for an illegal purpose; caused or permitted a serious nuisance; or interfered with the peace, comfort or privacy of their neighbours.

"The new Disruptive Behaviour Management Strategy sets an appropriate standard of behaviour and introduces new processes and sanctions for handling disruptive tenancies after the regular avenues of due process and fair effort to work with support agencies have been exhausted, said Dr Nahan.

"The changes include new legally-enforceable Tenancy Behaviour Conditions; probationary fixed-term tenancies for returning tenants; the application of court-ordered visitor sanctions; and the introduction of a mediation service and early intervention teams."

"The department will also adopt wider use of Section 64 of the Residential Tenancies Act 1987 to terminate the tenancies of severely disruptive tenants as required, as an interim measure until the amendments to the Residential Tenancies Act are passed."

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