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Disruptive Behaviour Management System Hotline

Dr Mike Nahan, the Member for Riverton welcomed the establishment of a new system for reporting all complaints of an antisocial and disruptive nature regarding Department of Housing tenants.

"The State Government has implemented this new initiative to strengthen our stance on anti-social and disruptive behaviour from public housing tenants," said Dr Nahan.

"The new Disruptive Behaviour Management System hotline on 1300 597 076 is available to fellow tenants or private residential owners who live nearby to report incidents of anti-social behaviour. The information will enable the Department of Housing to more effectively deal with the problem and to assess the level of action against the tenancy in question."

"In many cases, Department of Housing tenants do not cause any problems but occasionally, some do and they need to know that their actions will not be tolerated anymore."

"Public housing tenants also need to understand that they are accountable for their visitors and that their visitor's poor behaviour could put their tenancy at risk of termination."

Dr Nahan said the State Government has also set up a centralized Disruptive Behaviour Compliance Unit, which will complement the complaints line and provide a centralized alternative response to particular cases of disruptive behavior.

"These new initiatives have strengthened and streamlined the current policy and put in place a number of additional measures to ensure that we effectively manage anti-social behavior by public housing tenants in order to protect the community," said Dr Nahan.

"Sanctions against tenants will be applied based on the severity and frequency of proven disturbances. If the situation is deemed dangerous, the Department of Housing will immediately seek legal action to terminate the tenancy."

"If it's deemed serious, a first and final warning will be issued for the first incident, then a subsequent incident within 12 months will result in legal proceedings to terminate the tenancy. If the incident is deemed minor, three strikes within a 12-month period will see legal action invoked to evict the tenant."

"While a Magistrate will continue to have the final say on an eviction, the levels of severity and their corresponding behaviours are expected to be supported by the proposed amendments to the Residential Tenancy Act, which are currently being finalized for Government consideration."

"I am very pleased that the Barnett Government has taken this new no tolerance stance on anti-social behaviour in public housing and that these new measures will help to alleviate community concerns."

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