

Question on Notice
No. 597
Asked on 7 August 2014

MRS CUNNINGHAM ASKED THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING AND PUBLIC WORKS
(MR MANDER)—

As significant concern has been expressed in relation to conditions around tenants leaving Queensland housing accommodation for holidays— Will the Minister clarify the process required in circumstances such as (a) visiting family for a weekend, (b) staying overnight out of town for medical procedures, (c) holidaying for two to three weeks and (d) holidaying over three weeks?

ANSWER:

Changes to the Temporary Absences policy for public housing tenants are designed to ensure that social housing properties are not unoccupied for long periods of time, given the large number of applicants awaiting assistance. Notification also assists in scheduling any maintenance to be carried out.

With regard to the specific circumstances identified in the question:

- a) visiting family for a weekend – no notification is required
- b) staying overnight out of town for medical procedures - no notification is required
- c) holidaying for two to three weeks - tenants will need to notify the department for absences between seven days to four weeks and seek approval for leave if the cumulative leave taken during the calendar year is more than four weeks
- d) holidaying over three weeks – tenants will need to notify the department for absences between seven days to four weeks and seek approval for leave if the cumulative leave taken during the calendar year is more than four weeks.