

Question on Notice

No. 150

Asked on Tuesday, 9 March 2021

MR J BLEIJIE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR COMMUNITIES AND HOUSING, MINISTER FOR DIGITAL ECONOMY AND MINISTER FOR THE ARTS (HON L ENOCH)—

QUESTION:

Will the Minister advise why the Labor Government will not immediately evict unruly and criminal public housing tenants and give the homes to law abiding desperate families to keep Queensland safe and strong?

ANSWER:

I thank the Honourable Member for the question.

The Queensland Government assists some of the most people vulnerable in our society with social housing support.

We have zero tolerance for criminal behaviour and illegal activity and there are behaviour management policies in place to ensure that tenants meet their obligations to pay rent, look after their properties and be good neighbours. These are fundamental responsibilities of any tenant in Queensland, whether in a public or private tenancy. The Department of Communities, Housing and Digital Economy (the department) has behaviour management policies in place to support this work.

There are circumstances when the department, like any other landlord, may need to proceed with a tenancy termination order through the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal (QCAT) in line with the *Residential Tenancies and Rooming Accommodation Act 2008*.

Tenancy terminations are subject to an order and timeframes set by QCAT.

The Government's person-centred approach resulted in a 26% decline in tenancy behaviour complaints between 2018-19 and 2019-20 across Queensland and a 37% decline in the Sunshine Coast local government area. This stands in stark contrast to the former LNP Government's "Three Strikes" policy that treated social housing tenants as second-class citizens, created new rules for them that no one else had to abide by, and yet didn't result in a decline in anti-social behaviour.