

Question on Notice

No. 47

Asked on Wednesday, 24 February 2021

MS F SIMPSON ASKED THE MINISTER FOR COMMUNITIES AND HOUSING, MINISTER FOR DIGITAL ECONOMY AND MINISTER FOR THE ARTS (HON L ENOCH)—

QUESTION:

Will the Minister advise for January 2019 to January 2021 how many public housing tenants in the Maroochydore Electorate have been (a) the subject of complaints, (b) issued with breach notices and/or warnings and (c) evicted?

ANSWER:

I thank the Honourable Member for the question.

The Department of Communities, Housing and Digital Economy (the department) assists some of the most vulnerable in our society with social housing support and works proactively with all customers to address their housing needs. The vast majority of Queenslanders living in public housing do the right thing and are good neighbours.

The department has 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.

During the two-year period January 2019 to January 2021 within the Maroochydore electorate the department received behaviour related complaints about 134 public housing tenancies, issued 38 Warnings and 112 Notice to Remedy Breach notices. Two households were evicted following the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal's decision to terminate the tenancy agreements.

Unlike the approach taken by the former Liberal-National Party Government, we are focused on delivering person-centred services aimed at keeping people in their tenancies and not becoming homeless. In the Sunshine Coast local government area between 2018-19 and 2019-20, tenancy behaviour complaints declined by 37%, and across the state during that same period they declined by 26%. This demonstrates that our approach is working, and that behaviour related complaints on the Sunshine Coast are in fact decreasing more than the rest of Queensland.