

Question on Notice

No. 817

Asked on Wednesday, 16 June 2021

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

QUESTION:

With reference to serious community concerns about the public housing complex in Boorook Street Buddina—

Will the Minister advise if the government will transfer the management of the Boorook Street public housing complex to the community Not-For-Profit housing sector to better manage and address the community concerns including that of other public housing tenants and will the government in the meantime, immediately place an onsite manager in the Boorook Street public housing complex?

ANSWER:

I thank the Honourable Member for the question.

The Department of Communities, Housing and Digital Economy assists some of the most vulnerable people in our society with social housing support, some of whom, require additional supports to sustain a successful tenancy. This approach supports public housing tenants to remain in their tenancies and not become homeless, while balancing the needs and rights of other tenants, private owners and the broader community.

The department remains committed to ensuring that people with complex needs have a safe place to live with dignity. There is not one size that fits all when it comes to assisting Queensland's most vulnerable into safe and sustainable housing solutions. A policy approach, as was pursued by the former LNP Government, that sees the majority of public housing stock transferred to the non-government sector can have negative impacts on tenants. The department remains committed to working in partnership with Community Housing Providers, government and non-government support services to assist tenants, particularly those with complex needs to sustain their tenancies.

The Department of Communities, Housing and Digital Economy manages disruptive behaviour under the Fair Expectations of Behaviour policy. This involves working pro-actively with people, resolving concerns early, and working together with a broad range of other government and community support agencies. A punitive approach, as was pursued by the former LNP Government, that does not take a person's circumstances into account makes things worse by increasing the risk of homelessness, exacerbating personal issues and increasing the cost to government.

The department has zero tolerance for criminal behaviour and illegal activity and the behaviour management policies help 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.