

Question on Notice

No. 26

Asked on Tuesday, 13 February 2024

MR B MICKELBERG ASKED THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING, LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND PLANNING AND MINISTER FOR PUBLIC WORKS (HON M SCANLON)—

QUESTION:

Will the Minister advise the number of social housing tenants evicted from homes on the Sunshine Coast between 14 February 2015 and 13 February 2024, and list the reasons for each eviction?

ANSWER:

Disruptive behaviour is managed under the Department of Housing, Local Government, Planning and Public Works' Fair Expectations of Behaviour policy, which aims to actively manage disruptive behaviours with a focus on understanding tenants' needs, intervening early to investigate a complaint, and referring tenants to support services.

The department actively partners with support services and other agencies to develop local strategies and tenancy support models to address ongoing disruptive behaviours, to contribute to a more harmonious community.

When managing disruptive behaviours, actions taken by the department may include issuing warnings, tenancy breaches or providing referrals to appropriate government or community support services to help the tenant address the tenancy issues, reduce the impact on others and sustain their tenancy.

While eviction from public housing is a last resort, for tenants who engage in repeat instances of serious disruptive behaviour, the department uses the provisions of the relevant tenancy legislation and provides the tenant natural justice through the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal (QCAT) process, which may result in eviction.

However, it is important to note that the majority of Queenslanders living in social housing meet their tenancy responsibilities, are good neighbours and contribute positively to their communities.

Between 14 February 2015 and 13 February 2024 there were 51 social housing evictions in the Sunshine Coast Local Government Area. Of the 51 evictions, 27 were for objectionable behaviour, 21 were due to rent arrears, two were due to the tenant being incarcerated, and one was due to the property being abandoned by the tenant.