

SOCIAL HOUSING — DISRUPTIVE BEHAVIOUR MANAGEMENT POLICY

**540. Hon LYNN MacLAREN to the minister representing the Minister for Housing:**

- (1) Is the minister aware that there is significant concern in the WA community sector regarding the government's proposal to legislate its disruptive behaviour management policy for social housing?
- (2) What consultation did the government undertake with key stakeholders, including the Western Australian Council of Social Service, Shelter WA, the Community Housing Coalition of WA, and the Tenants Advice Service regarding the implementation of this policy in both the social and community housing sectors?
- (3) Is the government aware these stakeholders believe this policy will produce unintended consequences that will create more problems for government and increase the demand on already overloaded community services?
- (4) Will the government take up the community sector's offer to work with government towards an effective, collaborative strategy that brings together support services and people impacted by the policy?

**Hon SIMON O'BRIEN replied:**

I thank the honourable member for notice of the question.

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Public submissions were invited in relation to the implementation of the 2009 disruptive behaviour management strategy. The policy implemented in May 2011 was a revision of the 2009 policy, which was not delivering the outcomes sought by government.
- (3) Yes.
- (4) The Department of Housing works collaboratively with government and non-government stakeholders that have responsibilities to respond to disruptive behaviour, and support tenants to prevent escalation of these issues. The department would welcome any proposal by the community sector, within the parameters of current government policy, to assist in preventing disruptive behaviour impacting on the broader community.