

PUBLIC HOUSING — EVICTIONS

923. Hon STEVE MARTIN to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Housing:

I refer to a recent news report by ABC Perth that claims vulnerable Western Australians are being left on the street after being evicted from their public housing properties. How many public housing tenants were evicted in each of the following financial years —

- (a) 2018–19;
- (b) 2019–20;
- (c) 2021–22; and
- (d) 2022 to date?

Hon SUE ELLERY replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question.

- (a)–(d) The Department of Communities works with tenants to ensure they are given every opportunity to rectify the issues impacting their tenancy. This includes making appropriate referrals to supports and programs such as Thrive, which provides support to public housing clients.

When a tenant is at risk of eviction, the Department of Communities will increase its contact with the client and link them with relevant support services to help address the issues impacting their tenancy. In most cases when engagement occurs, clients can remedy the issues impacting their tenancy. Termination proceedings are initiated only when tenants repeatedly or egregiously fail to utilise all the opportunities provided to them to resolve tenancy concerns. Eviction is the last resort for the department and is often taken to ensure the safety of the community.

The Department of Communities also works with a range of services and supports, including mental health services, community legal centres, Aboriginal medical services, disability support providers and domestic violence support services to support tenants.

Notwithstanding this, evictions have continued to decline significantly under this government when compared with the previous Liberal–National government. Information on public housing bailiff evictions by financial year is provided in tabular form. I seek leave to have that part of the answer incorporated into *Hansard*.

[Leave granted for the following material to be incorporated.]

Public Housing Bailiff Evictions, by Financial Year:

2015–16	315
2016–17	293
2017–18	159
2018–19	167
2019–20	93
2020–21*	7
2021–22	43
2022–23 YTD**	11

*The 2020–21 financial year reflects a period in which the moratorium on terminations was implemented during the initial stages of the COVID-19 pandemic.

**YTD as at 30 September 2022.
