

PUBLIC HOUSING — EVICTIONS

**310. Hon STEVE MARTIN to the minister representing the Minister for Housing:**

I refer to the disruptive behaviour of tenants in public housing.

- (1) Is the Cook government still utilising the policy commonly referred to as the “three strikes policy”, which was designed to prevent repeatedly troublesome tenants from continuing to negatively impact the local community?
- (2) If yes to (1), will the minister table any documents that show how many strikes can be gained at each level of severity before a removal process is triggered?
- (3) How many people have been removed from public housing under the policy in the past 12 months?
- (4) If no to (1), why not?

**Hon JACKIE JARVIS replied:**

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question. The follow response has been provided by the Minister for Housing.

- (1)–(4) The Department of Communities’ disruptive behaviour strategy is designed to address and manage incidents of disruptive behaviour at public housing properties that may impact on neighbouring properties. The publicly available *Disruptive behaviour management policy* ensures the response applied is proportionate to the severity of the behaviour and encompassing circumstances. Action taken depends on the severity of the incident. The decision to terminate a public housing tenancy agreement sits with the magistrate, who will grant an order for vacant possession only if satisfied that there has been a breach of the tenancy agreement and that the tenant has been given every opportunity to rectify the breach and has failed to do so.

Communities continues to focus on sustaining tenancies. This is consistent with recommendation 13 of the report *Funding of homelessness services in Western Australia* to increase the focus on prevention and early intervention of homelessness, which was supported by the majority of members on the committee, including the honourable member.