

C1054

**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL**

**QUESTION WITHOUT NOTICE**  
(Of which some notice has been given)

Tuesday, 10 December 2013

Hon Robin Chappie to the Minister for Agriculture and Food representing the Minister for Housing

In regards to the Department of Housing's Disruptive Behaviour Management Strategy, I ask:

- 1) How many Homeswest tenants in Kalgoorlie have been evicted after receiving three strikes under this strategy?
- 2) How many of the tenants have been of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent?
- 3) What support and services are offered to these tenants?
- 4) What housing options are available for these tenants?

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I thank the Hon. Member for some notice of this question.

- 1) The number of tenants who vacated post termination notice, post court order or by bailiff eviction in the Goldfields region, which includes Kalgoorlie, by financial year is:
  - 2011-12: five
  - 2012-13: six
  - 2013-14 (to 30 November 2013): three.

Note: tenants can be required to vacate their property prior to the issue of three strikes, depending the severity of the behaviour.

- 2) The number of Aboriginal tenants who vacated post termination notice, post court order or by bailiff eviction in the Goldfields region, which includes Kalgoorlie, by financial year is:
  - 2011-12: four
  - 2012-13: five
  - 2013-14 (to 30 November 2013): three.

Note: Tenants can be required to vacate their property prior to the issue of three strikes depending on the severity of the behaviour.

The identification of a tenant as being of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent is determined on the basis of a voluntary declaration on the form used when a client originally applies for housing, which may be many years prior to the vacation. Individuals may have chosen not to answer the question or not done so accurately. Furthermore, household changes over the years may mean the declaration is no longer accurate.

- 3) Tenants who are issued with a strike notice are offered a referral to the Support and Tenant Education Program, which is facilitated through Centrecare Goldfields and currently not subject to a wait list. Details are also provided for the Goldfields Community Legal Service.

For Aboriginal tenants, referral is also offered to the Bega Gambirringu Social Support Unit. Bega offers holistic support services to individuals and families.

The Department of Housing works closely with the Department for Child Protection and Family Support (DCPFS), Mental Health Commission and Department for Corrective Services and will also engage with advocates or other support providers who may be able to offer additional support as needed.

The Department of Housing cannot enforce participation with support services and tenants must be willing to engage.

- 4) In the case of a family with a child whose tenancy is or is likely to end under the Disruptive Behaviour Management Strategy, the Department of Housing will advise DCPFS. DCPFS can then ascertain the needs of the child and provide time-limited targeted support to address homelessness for the family.

Previous tenants with a history of disruptive behaviour that resulted in their tenancy ending can reapply for further housing assistance, however, the Department of Housing reserves the right to refuse assistance or place conditions on further assistance.

The Department of Housing also offers bond assistance and two weeks' rent in advance as an interest-free loan to help people obtain accommodation in the private rental market.

Community housing is another affordable housing option for people on low to moderate incomes with a housing need.

Alternatively, previous tenants may choose to stay with family and friends.

