BESS PRICE MLA | Member for STUART
Minister for Housing

Housing three strikes policy just got tougher
2 September 2015

The Country Liberals Government takes public housing safety seriously and today has announced the Three Strikes policy for all public housing tenants has been strengthened considerably.

Minister for Housing Bess Price last night visited public housing in Alice Springs to see firsthand the operation of the Public Housing Safety Strategy (PHSS). PHSS promotes community safety in and around public housing and today the Minister announced key enhancements to the Three Strikes policy.

“The Three Strikes policy allows Public Housing Safety Officers and Housing officials to respond and investigate complaints of antisocial behaviour in public housing tenancies,” Minister Price said.

“To further improve the policy, all strikes issued for antisocial behaviour will be recorded on a tenancy for twelve months instead of the previous arrangement of six months, meaning badly behaved tenants will no longer have their records wiped clean after only six months.

“Another improvement includes all previous strikes recorded against a tenant can now be used when determining how antisocial behaviour is managed to demonstrate poor behaviour by the tenant, or in an extreme case, the termination of tenancy.

“We want people to do the right thing and only in extreme incidents of antisocial behaviour will the Department be taking action to terminate a tenancy after three strikes, and only as a last resort.

“Naturally if the tenant maintains positive behaviour then after twelve months their record is wiped clean, and there are special tenancy support programs to assist them to change antisocial conduct.

“Another addition to the Three Strikes policy is the removal of a verbal warning, from today there will be an option to go straight to a first strike with no verbal warning – where appropriate.

“I have instructed the Department that all complaints are to be investigated and if they find substantiated incidents of antisocial behaviour against a tenancy then a strike in writing will be issued.

“Earlier this year we also strengthened the visitor guidelines for public housing tenants, so visitors can only stay for two weeks in remote and urban areas before needing permission by the Department.

“The PHSS includes the deployment of Public Housing Safety Officers, the Three Strikes Policy and cross-agency collaboration.”

Reporting antisocial behaviour can be done by calling the public safety hotline on 1800 685 743, Monday to Friday during business hours. After hours emergency, contact the police on 131 444.

Media Contact: Adrian Renzi 0419 609 430