MEDIA RELEASE

HON LORaine Braham MLA
INDEPENDENT MEMBER FOR BRAINTLING

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GIVING FRUSTRATED NEIGHBOURS A FAIR GO

People with disorderly neighbours will have the opportunity to present their case to a Magistrate under an amendment to the NT Residential Tenancies Act to be proposed in Parliament tomorrow by the Independent Member for Braitling, Loraine Braham.

“At the moment, the law says only the landlord can apply to a court to terminate a tenancy agreement”, said Mrs Braham. “My amendment will allow anyone who has been affected by a tenant’s disruptive behaviour to also apply to the court to have the agreement cancelled. The court will be required to consult the landlord”.

Mrs Braham’s amendment is in response to the growing problem of anti-social behaviour in public housing estates in Alice Springs and the lack of swift response by the NT Government.

“I have lost count of the number of tired and distressed people who have come to my electorate office, desperate for something to be done”, said Mrs Braham. “After pressure from these residents and from me, the Minister for Housing has, at last, introduced some measures such as security patrols”.

Mrs Braham asks “But what about the neighbours who have to contend with sleepless nights because of the ongoing disruptions? What about those law-abiding people who fear stepping outside their door in case they are accosted by verbal abuse?”

“That’s why I will introduce this bill – to support the rights of neighbours to have a fair go. My bill will allow these people to put their concerns to a court where they should get a more sympathetic ear than they currently get from the NT government”.

“Too often, too little, too late is done”. Mrs Braham expects her bill will be debated in Parliament later this year.

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