BADLY BEHAVED HOUSING TENANTS WILL NOT BE TOLERATED

Housing tenants who behave badly will not be tolerated following new initiatives announced today by Chief Minister Clare Martin.

“I am saying that wherever anti social behaviour occurs it will not be tolerated,” Ms Martin said.

“A small number of tenants in both public and private housing are simply not getting the message and I want to ensure that they do.

“I want residents who are affected by disruptive neighbours to feel safe about making a complaint, know that their complaint will be taken seriously and that bad behaviour will simply not be allowed.

“The power to evict nuisance tenants needs to be strengthened – this will send a clear message to people who think they can avoid serious consequences.

“New measures I want to see in place include:

• Introduce tough new Acceptable Behaviour Agreements that will include the ability to act immediately on noise and nuisance complaints
• Improve the response times from Territory Housing when complaints are made about nuisance tenants
• Enable Tenancy Officers to collect evidence, mediate disputes and enforce the new agreements
• Introduce a new process to quickly and fairly deal with eviction applications
• An examination of any legislative impediments that prevent badly behaved tenants from being evicted

“I want these matters be treated urgently in the Housing and Justice portfolios for both public and private tenants.

“This is about letting people firmly know what is not acceptable. We want to support tenants, particularly those in public housing, but where they consistently overstep the mark they will be forced to conform with this new approach or leave the property.

“The vast majority of public housing tenants work hard to look after their properties and make great neighbours - the changes I am announcing are about promoting peaceful, safe neighbourhoods and resolving problems.”

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