

**ESTIMATES—UTILITIES, SCIENCE AND INNOVATION COMMITTEE—
HOUSING, PUBLIC WORKS, SCIENCE AND INNOVATION**

In Attendance

Hon. LM Enoch, Minister for Housing and Public Works and Minister for Science and Innovation

Mr S Gay, Chief of Staff

Department of Housing and Public Works

Ms L Carroll, Director-General

Mr D Walker, Deputy Director-General, Housing Services

Ms D McLeod, Chief Finance Officer, Finance

Department of Science, Information Technology and Innovation

Mr J Merrick, Acting Director-General

Mr E Hill, Chief Change and Operations Officer

Mr A Mills, Queensland Government Chief Information Officer

Mr D Stower, Assistant Director-General, Strategic ICT Division

Queensland Building and Construction Commission

Ms K Lowe, Acting Commissioner

Mr WHITING: I again refer to page 3 of the SDS and to the government's commitment to undertake this full review of housing policies to ensure fairness. Is the minister aware of any evidence around the negative impacts of the former LNP government's three strikes behaviour rule?

Ms ENOCH: As the member would be aware, the antisocial behaviour policy, the so-called three strikes policy, was introduced on 1 July 2013 by the previous government, its goal being to reduce and better respond to incidents of disruptive behaviour by public housing tenants. Unfortunately, the policy may not be achieving the intended outcomes and may in fact have unintended consequences. The Queensland Mental Health Commission's review of systemic issues for social housing clients with complex needs was tabled by the Minister for Health in the Queensland parliament on 30 June 2015. This report shows evidence that tenants with complex needs often fail to meet their tenancy obligations due to their lack of capacity to understand and adhere to the antisocial behaviour policy. When this occurs, these tenants are subject to one of a number of negative outcomes—homelessness, the justice system or sometimes being hospitalised.

The report demonstrates that tenants with complex needs should be assisted to overcome the behaviours that are putting their tenancies at risk. This needs to be done through the provision of the right supports at the right time at the right place, delivered via an integrated coordinated case management approach—an approach designed around principles for recovery and early intervention to provide better outcomes for people. I advise the committee that my department wrote to the Queensland Mental Health Commissioner on 14 August this year and advised the commissioner that it would accept or support all recommendations within the report and that it would seek appropriate funding as part of a traditional government budget process. I can also assure the committee that, while

a review of the antisocial behaviour will ensure fairness, the policy will continue to have zero tolerance for serious illegal or dangerous behaviour. The majority of our social housing tenants realise they have the same obligations and responsibilities as tenants in the private sector. We must ensure our tenants have the support they need to meet those obligations.