

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

Mr Maley to the Minister for Housing and Homelands:

18 Sowden Street, Jingili

1. How long has the current tenant leased the property?
2. In the last 24 months has there been any outstanding rent payments? If so what steps have been taken to recover any outstanding rent?
3. Have any rental arrears ever been written off by the Department over the last 24 months?
4. Have there been any complaints from neighbours in relation to, but not limited to the following:
 - a. Anti-social behaviour
 - b. Excessive noise
 - c. Excessive people staying at the property
 - d. Criminal behaviour at the property
 - e. Property damage at the property
5. What steps have been taken in relation to any complaints in the last 24 months?
6. Have any complainants been notified about work taken as a result of their complaint?
7. How many times has your Department attended the property for any reason whatsoever?
8. How many people are permitted to reside at the property at any one time?
9. Has there been any damage to the property? If so what was the cost to repair the damage?
10. Has there been any damage done to the road side directly in front of the property?

11. Has the Department over the last 24 months undertaken cleaning of the property?
12. How many rental inspections have occurred over the last 24 months?
13. What damage or other problems were identified as a result of any rental inspections done within the last 24 months?
14. What support has been provided to the tenant to ensure they are not breaching the lease?
15. Are there any current work orders or tenders open relating to this property?
16. If so what do they relate to and what is the cost of the work to be done?
17. Has this tenant been relocated from any other public housing due to complaints?
18. If so, how many previous public housing properties has this tenant been relocated from due to complaints?

ANSWER:

In accordance with practice, we are unable to disclose the specific information sought in your questions due to considerations of privacy and confidentiality.

As you may be aware:

- Tenants as leaseholders have a responsibility under the *Residential Tenancies Act 1999* to maintain their yard and property in a clean and reasonable condition, and not intentionally or negligently cause damage to the premises. Visitor management and anti-social behaviour are also part of the tenancy responsibility.
- The Department of Territory Families, Housing and Communities (“the Department”) promotes community safety and works closely with the Northern Territory Police, and other government agencies to manage antisocial behaviour. Public Housing Safety Officers (PHSOs) assist the NT Police by responding and investigating antisocial behaviour happening in and around public housing only.
- The Department works closely with public housing tenants, support agencies and government agencies to assist tenants to meet their obligations under their lease agreement. All complaints concerning the behaviour of public housing tenants or their visitors are thoroughly investigated and actioned, in line with the principles of natural justice and procedural fairness.