

Hervey Bay Electorate Office

From: Hervey Bay Electorate Office
Sent: Thursday, 7 August 2014 8:33 AM
To: Hervey Bay Electorate Office
Subject: for tabling. Housing commission tenant holidays

From: Hayden Johnson [mailto:Hayden.Johnson@frasercoastchronicle.com.au]
Sent: Friday, 1 August 2014 10:50 AM
To: Ted Sorensen
Cc: Hervey Bay Electorate Office
Subject: Housing commission tenant holidays

Good morning all,
Shadow Housing Minister Jo-Ann Miller has accused the State Government of having an "unfair and mean tenancy policy".
Ms Miller said the four-week annual limit on tenants for the amount of time they could be away from their homes was unfair.

What is the reasoning for putting a limit on how long tenants can be away from their home?
Is it appropriate for the government to request information on how long people will be away and where they'll be going?
If tenants are paying their rent and maintaining their homes, should the government be able to cap how long they're away for?

A response by 5pm would be appreciated.
Cheers

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FRASER COAST
Chronicle 

Hervey Bay
Observer Herald Drive Domain

Cc: Hervey Bay Electorate Office
Subject: Housing commission tenant holidays

Good morning all,
Shadow Housing Minister Jo-Ann Miller has accused the State Government of having an “unfair and mean tenancy policy”.
Ms Miller said the four-week annual limit on tenants for the amount of time they could be away from their homes was unfair.

1. Social housing tenants are required to notify the Department if they are planning to be away for an extended period for any reason. The new policy came into effect in February 2014.

Under the new rules, tenants are entitled to be absent for four weeks per year for the purposes of a holiday and of course, longer absences may be approved for other reasons e.g. hospitalisation, child safety or domestic violence issues.

What is the reasoning for putting a limit on how long tenants can be away from their home?

2. Social housing is in high demand. The old rules were unfair because they meant properties often sat vacant for up to 12 months while the registered tenants were off on lengthy holidays (or serving prison sentences). The old rules also allowed tenants to have their rent reduced to as little as \$11.10 a week for the duration of their absence, and even have friends stay in their homes rent free.

Is it appropriate for the government to request information on how long people will be away and where they'll be going?

3. Since the new policy was introduced, 676 social housing tenants received approvals for 722 temporary absences for a range of reasons including holidays, hospitalisation, rehabilitation, domestic violence and child safety issues. In most cases applications for temporary absences are processed within one or two days.

If tenants are paying their rent and maintaining their homes, should the government be able to cap how long they're away for?

Please refer to #2. It is also unfair, for those who are highly disadvantaged and facing homelessness and in desperate need for public housing and to have vacant houses, that are going wanting.

A response by 5pm would be appreciated.
Cheers

(Hayden, why is Joanne Miller doing all the talking, are the rumours true, that she is looking to take over the Labor Party leadership?)

Regards
Ted.

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Hervey Bay Electorate Office

From: Hayden Johnson <Hayden.Johnson@frasercoastchronicle.com.au>
Sent: Friday, 1 August 2014 5:27 PM
To: Hervey Bay Electorate Office
Subject: RE: Housing commission tenant holidays

Thanks mate!
I'll look into the leadership spill ☺
Talk soon,

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From: Hervey Bay Electorate Office [mailto:Hervey.Bay@parliament.qld.gov.au]
Sent: Friday, 1 August 2014 3:12 PM
To: Hayden Johnson
Subject: FW: Housing commission tenant holidays

From: Hayden Johnson [mailto:Hayden.Johnson@frasercoastchronicle.com.au]
Sent: Friday, 1 August 2014 10:50 AM
To: Ted Sorensen