

John Castrilli MLA



Representing the people of Bunbury

Stepping out for support

Relay for Life was held at Hands Oval on the weekend and I would like to pay tribute to everyone involved in organising and supporting such a worthy cause.

As well as raising vital funds for the Cancer Council, this event is a wonderful example of people coming together for a common cause, and in doing so, strengthening the bonds of our local community.

The Relay has certainly gone from strength to strength, with 76 teams taking part this year to celebrate survivors and carers, remember those who have lost their battle, and fight for a future without cancer.

Another cancer survivor working towards a brighter future for others is Bunbury's Brian Kennedy.

Brian wants more people to be able to access support at Balya Cancer Retreat and organised South West Bike Week, held last week, to raise funds.

I take my hat off to Brian, who at the age of 76 displays an amazing determination to make a difference to our community.

Strategy to manage tenants

A new Disruptive Behaviour Management Strategy aims to address antisocial behaviour by tenants in WA public housing.

The Strategy was announced by Housing and Works Minister Troy Buswell and sets an appropriate standard of behaviour for occupants.

The majority of public housing tenants do the right thing, and this strategy gives a standard which all tenants can aspire to.

It introduces new processes and sanctions for handling disruptive tenants after all the regular avenues have been exhausted.

Changes will also be made to the Residential Tenancies Act to better enable the State Government to deliver on its responsibility for the safety and security of public housing tenants and their neighbours.

The Government will be able to apply to the Magistrates Court for the termination of a tenancy agreement in extreme cases. This includes where the tenant has repeatedly allowed a property to be used for an illegal purpose; caused or permitted a serious nuisance; or interfered with the peace, comfort or privacy of neighbours.

The changes would include new legally-enforceable Tenancy Behaviour Conditions; the application of court-ordered visitor sanctions; and the introduction of a mediation service and early intervention teams to support tenants.

Existing measures will be used in the interim to terminate the tenancies of severely disruptive tenants until the amendments to the Residential Tenancies Act are passed.