

## Community Support and Services Committee

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 30 June 2021 4:34 PM  
**To:** Steven Miles  
**Cc:** Community Support and Services Committee; Minister for Communities and Housing  
**Subject:** To Community Support and Services Committee (CC my local MP): Submission on the Housing Legislation Amendment Bill 2021 and the Residential Tenancies and Rooming Accommodation (Tenants' Rights) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2021

Dear Steven Miles MP,

Dear the Community Support and Services Committee, cc my local MP -

I'd like to comment on both the Housing Legislation Amendment Bill 2021 and the Residential Tenancies and Rooming Accommodation (Tenants' Rights) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2021.

I'd also like to take this opportunity to share something with you: a snapshot of what it's like to rent in Queensland.

[Day before we were to move in and hours after we signed the release; we found a homeless person living in the garage. [REDACTED] had changed the locks but left them in the door so that the (the neighbours told us it was a crack house) previous tennent came back and used all the utilities and drew graffiti on the walls. We found syringes in her belongings. We called [REDACTED] and they said they would see what they could do about it tomorrow. We told them we would be homeless if we couldn't move in tomorrow morning. We had everything planned out. They didn't care and left us to talk to the police. We were homeless after that for 3 months because we owned a dog and real estate don't like dogs. We had to pay for storage as well and were denied a good job because we had no place to live. We were not given any compensation and [REDACTED] did not find us another house, even though it was their fault all this happened. PLEASE ALLOW PETS TO BE COMPULSORY. CHI

LDREN DO MORE DAMAGE THAN PETS]

In its current form, the Housing Legislation Amendment Bill 2021 will do little to improve my situation as one of the 1.8 million renters in Queensland. While this bill may be palatable to the real estate lobby, it completely disregards my experience as a renter.

While I'm pleased that the Housing Legislation Amendment Bill includes positive provisions for renters experiencing domestic and family violence, it contains little other reforms of substance for renters.

I urge the Queensland Government to take this opportunity to amend this bill and to implement real rental reforms that will make renting in Queensland affordable, secure and fair.

It's crucial that rental reforms in Queensland include:

- A genuine end to 'no grounds' evictions – providing tenants with long-term security in their homes without the risk of an unfair eviction at the end of their lease
- Allowing tenants to make minor modifications, like hanging picture frames or installing furniture safety anchors
- A real ban on rent bidding – banning agents and property owners from accepting amount above the advertised rent for a property
- Expanding minimum standards to include ventilation, cleanliness and insulation
- Stopping unreasonable rent increases by tying rent increases to general inflation (CPI)
- Ensuring prospective tenants have fair and honest information about the property
- Banning inappropriate or discriminatory questions by lessors
- Make it easier for tenants to have pets – by flipping the onus on property owners/agents to demonstrate why it's unreasonable for a tenant to have pet

These provisions are included in the Residential Tenancies and Rooming Accommodation (Tenants' Rights) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2021. I urge the government to either support the Tenants' Rights Bill, or amend its own bill to provide real protections for renters.

Yours sincerely,

[Redacted signature]

[Redacted contact information]