
From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 8 July 2021 10:59 AM
To: Ipswich West Electorate Office
Cc: Community Support and Services Committee; thepremier@premiers.qld.gov.au; communitiesandhousing@ministerial.qld.gov.au
Subject: Submission on the Housing Legislation Amendment Bill 2021 and the Residential Tenancies and Rooming Accommodation (Tenants' Rights) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2021

Dear James Madden MP,

Dear Committee

Please find my submission the Housing Legislation Amendment Bill 2021 (The Bill).

The Bill fails to meet its key stated objectives. In particular it fails to ensure that vulnerable community members are supported to sustain tenancies. It also fails to remove the ability of lessors to end tenancies without grounds.

I want to see the following changes in the Bill.

NO UNFAIR EVICTIONS. The grounds to end a tenancy, for 'end of a fixed term', must be removed as a matter of priority before the legislation is passed. As it is, the Bill will increase the reasons why renters can be evicted at no fault.

Jim, I've lost count of the number of times I have been evicted at the end of a lease. I've never been at fault, but if the real estate decides that they don't like me, or landlords want to vastly increase the rent... as a sole parent, and a person with disability, this has left my family traumatised: unable to settle down into a home because we are always in fear of eviction.

ALLOW MINOR MODIFICATIONS. Being able to personalise and make safe my home is an important reform which should be included. The Bill must allow renters to undertake minor health, safety, accessibility and security modifications without prior approval, and minor amenity and personalisation changes with a short notification.

MAKE IT EASIER FOR PEOPLE AFFECTED BY DOMESTIC & FAMILY VIOLENCE. I support the government's proposals around domestic and family violence but they must also include the ability to install security measures without prior consent. This is a vital safety protection for people experiencing DFV.

LET RENTERS CHOOSE TO KEEP PETS. The Bill will go some way to support pets but they will still see renters with pets vetted out at application time, and allow conditions where the average dog or cat must live outside. The Bill must be changed to start with an assumption that renters can keep pets if they choose; require the lessor to seek orders to restrict pets if there is a dispute, and declare any previous pet conditions upfront.

Jim, our dog Milo brought so much joy in to our life... but we needed to wait for 15 years before we could find a rental that would allow a dog, and we needed to move from Brisbane to Ipswich to find that home. Being held at the whim of landlords over such important decisions is debilitating.

We need real change for renters that brings stability and the ability to make a place our home.

It is a human right to have safe and stable housing. In my experience, landlords believe they have right act as they please, and that renters do not deserve decency: we are simply less important than they are.

When I moved into my current house, there was no real lock on the back door - a hole where the handle should be and an internal slide bolt. After 3 years here I felt confident enough to ask for it to be fixed, and was told "no" on numerous occasions by both the landlord and the real estate agent. I had to go to the RTA to get a lock on my back door, and I've risked annoying the landlord and potentially face eviction. All because I wanted my back door to lock securely. NO-ONE deserves this.

I'm counting on you to help make the change we need regarding rental laws.

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