
From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 12 July 2021 12:46 PM
To: Redlands Electorate Office
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 Kim Richards MP,

Dear Community Support and Services Committee, cc my local MP, Kim Richards

We have been horrified since returning to Australia 3 years ago by the homeless crisis here. We don't think it is too dramatic to call it a crisis when young Mum's live in cars with their wee bubs. It is totally unacceptable in a rich country like ours that people should be unable to find and afford a home.

We'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.

In its current form we understand, the Housing Legislation Amendment Bill 2021 will do little to improve the lives of the 1.8 million renters in Queensland. While this bill may be palatable to the real estate lobby, it completely disregards the experiences of renters all across Queensland.

While we're truly 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.

We urge you and the entire 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 (pets as I am sure you know can extend life, reduce stress and increase health.

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]