

**Question on Notice
No. 1080
Asked on Wednesday, 5 September 2018**

MR M BERKMAN ASKED MINISTER FOR HOUSING AND PUBLIC WORKS; MINISTER FOR DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY; MINISTER FOR SPORT (HON M DE BRENNI)

With reference to rights for Queensland renters—

Will the Minister advise (a) when the department's work on minimum standards will be complete and the timeframe for implementation, (b) which groups are being consulted on that work, (c) whether the government is planning a broader review of tenancy laws, and if so, when that will happen, (d) if the review will include consideration of a right to remain (i.e. abolition of no-grounds evictions), (e) if the review will include consideration of rent controls or caps and (f) if the review will include consideration of removing quarterly inspections?

ANSWER

On 30 September 2018, the Deputy Premier and I launched the *Open Doors to Renting Reform* consultation to inform the review of Queensland's rental laws.

It will deliver on the Palaszczuk Government's and the Queensland Housing Strategy commitments to consult on the *Residential Tenancies and Rooming Accommodation Act 2008* review and the detailed content of prescribed minimum housing standards for rental properties by June 2019.

Renters, property owners, agents and the broader community will be engaged through the consultation program that has been designed to reach those who were under-represented in previous consultations.

The state-wide, eight-week program will take an iterative, grass roots engagement approach that is targeted at the issues raised within specific communities and includes a mix of online and face-to-face engagement tactics, surveys, polls, stories, discussion forums and written submissions.

Aligning consultation on the review of the Act and development of minimum housing standards through the *Open Doors to Renting Reform* consultation will reduce stakeholder consultation fatigue and confusion. The initiative has been designed to be inclusive, equitable and geographically representative to encourage all key stakeholders in the rental sector to have their say.

Consultation commenced in June 2018 through market research and briefings with industry, sector and government partners to inform design of the consultation program, identify current and emerging renting issues, and explore opportunities to draw on partner communication channels, networks and events to reach key stakeholder groups.

I would like to acknowledge the support of agencies such as Tenants Queensland, Queenslanders with a Disability Network, Council on the Ageing, REIQ, Community Legal Centres Queensland, QCOSS, Q Shelter, National Disability Services Queensland, ARAMA, Property Owners Association of Queensland, Caravanning Queensland, the Domestic and Family Violence Implementation Council, Housing Industry Association Queensland and the Residential Tenancies Authority, among others, who have continued to be involved and support the project.

The expertise of these agencies is valuable, but I intend to listen and learn from individuals involved in renting through the *Open Doors to Renting Reform* consultation and build on what we have already heard from peak bodies and representative groups.

Before any law is changed, the Palaszczuk Government will consult with the community, industry and other interested stakeholders to ensure information about costs and unintended consequences that could impact the community or adversely affect the rental market are considered.

The Member's concerns about the termination of rental agreements, rent caps and the frequency of rental property inspections will be considered during this process.

I ask all Members of Parliament to encourage their constituents to have their say about renting in Queensland during the *Open Doors to Renting Reform* consultation.

Queenslanders can get involved by responding to the *Open Doors to Renting Reform* discussion paper and survey, participate in online polling, discussion forums, or to tell their story by going to: www.yoursayhpw.engagementhq.com/RentinginQueensland/.

The community can also visit an *Open Doors to Renting Reform* consultation kiosk or attend a *Renting in Queensland* community engagement event.

Dates and locations can be found on the Renting in Queensland Engagement Website at www.qld.gov.au/rentinginql.

The *Open Doors to Renting Reform* consultation will close on 30 November 2018.