

GOVERNMENT RECOMMENDATIONS ON PRIVATE ROOMING HOUSES: A LOCAL PERSPECTIVE



Peninsula Community
Legal Centre Inc

Peninsula Community Legal Centre (PCLC) welcomes and endorses the recent release of the Rooming House Standards Taskforce Report.

The Centre's Senior Tenant Advocate, Jackie Galloway, says "These recommendations, if adopted in full by Government, will go a long way to improving the lives and conditions of an increasing number of people who rely on rooming houses as their primary form of accommodation. In our experience, people in private rooming houses are often reluctant to exercise their legal rights, fearful they may jeopardise their final housing option and risk becoming homeless. The Taskforce recommendations will offer greater protection to these residents."

Ms Galloway also welcomed the acknowledgement in the report of a broadening of resident types reliant on rooming house accommodation. "There has been a growing concern that families and young people seeking accommodation assistance are relying on placement in private rooming houses. The Legal Centre has noticed a growth in the number of private rooming houses in the South Eastern Metropolitan region."

In response to one of the Taskforce report recommendations, the Government has committed \$2.5 million to a private rental brokerage program to assist rooming house residents establish tenancies in the private rental market. This will go a long way towards expanding people's housing options beyond rooming houses. The Centre's experience in delivering the Young Renters Program demonstrates that, given appropriate support, people can be successfully connected into the private rental market. "We commend any initiative linking and assisting rooming house residents with sustainable tenancies in the private rental market," says Ms Galloway.

Peninsula Community Legal Centre offers a Caravan Park & Rooming House Outreach Project, funded by Consumer Affairs Victoria, which operates across the South Eastern metropolitan region. The Project aims to assist residents of caravan parks, residential parks, rooming houses and student rooming houses in their negotiations with owners and operators, by informing residents about their rights and responsibilities, and about services available to assist them.

For more information about the Centre's Caravan Park & Rooming House Outreach Project and other services, please phone 9783 3600 or www.pclc.org.au

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