



24 March 2020

Mr Kevin Anderson

Minister for Better Regulation and Innovation

By email: Office@anderson.minister.nsw.gov.au

Dear Mr Anderson,

Re: Relief for renters – Legislation must stop all evictions

We understand that the government is currently developing legislation to protect renters and prevent evictions during the current Coronavirus pandemic.

Redfern Legal Centre auspices a specialist tenancy service which is part of the state-wide Tenants' Advice and Advocacy Network providing free advice, advocacy and minor assistance to thousands of tenants across New South Wales every year. Through our work with tenants, boarders and lodgers across the public and private sphere, RLC has a unique insight into the impacts of the current pandemic and the potential consequences of failing to act to protect tenants and their homes.

Now more than ever we require strong leadership and a clear commitment to protecting families and individuals from homelessness. Our ability to contain this pandemic, look after the most vulnerable members of our society and protect our economy relies on people maintaining stable accommodation in the face of great threats to their livelihoods, health and income.

Redfern Legal Centre welcomes your leadership in this area and acknowledges that this is an important step that will improve public health and help reduce the economic impacts of this crisis.

However, for measures to achieve their outcomes it is important that they address a number of key areas including:

1. Stopping ALL evictions, not just evictions for rental arrears,
2. Cover ALL renters including social housing tenants, Boarders and Lodgers,
3. Defer unlawful threats of eviction,
4. Implement health and safety measures for renters in shared accommodation, and
5. Consider how we prevent an unmanageable debt crisis caused by arrears

For more information, we encourage you to review this open letter from housing and tenant organisations across Australia:

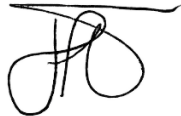
https://files.tenants.org.au/policy/20201903_ProtectOurCommunities.pdf

If you would like to discuss any of the above any further, please don't hesitate to get in touch with us at joanna@rlc.org.au

We look forward to seeing appropriate reform in the coming days and weeks.

Kind Regards,

Redfern Legal Centre

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'JS', with a horizontal line above it.

Joanna Shulman

CEO