

ANTI-POVERTY NETWORK --- SOUTH AUSTRALIA



MEDIA RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

Public Support For Rent-Freeze Grows, Time For Government To Act

Essential Media poll reveals 60% of the community, nationwide, supports a rent-freeze; it is time for the Malinauskas Government to listen and take action.

Yesterday's Essential Media poll demonstrated that there is **growing public support for freezing rents during the current rental affordability crisis, with 60% of survey respondents expressing support.**

Anti-Poverty Network SA spokesperson Duncan Bainbridge said: *"With rents continuing to skyrocket across the country, including a 20% rise in SA rents, over the last 2 years, we need all levels of government to respond to this emergency with strong action."*

"Last year, the Malinauskas Government kicked-off a review of the Residential Tenancy Act, but almost 12 months later, only very minor reforms have been implemented, none of which will stop massive, painful rent rises."

"This process is a prime opportunity to change the law to allow governments to limit huge rent rises, and increase protections for renters. But the State Government has chosen to prioritise the profits of investors and landlords, over people trying to keep a roof over their head, by only tinkering around the edges of our unfair rental system."

"For growing numbers of renters, massive rent rises are making it harder and harder to stay afloat. To stay in their homes, renters, especially those on low incomes, are having to sacrifice everything else: food, medicine, and other essentials."

"And when their lease is up for renewal, there is the gnawing fear of knowing that your agent or landlord can increase the rent by as much as they like, and that you have virtually no power to

negotiate, it is take-it-or-leave-it.”

“There is no time anymore for tinkering, or for baby steps’. We face an emergency, and we need decisive, swift action.”

Instead of rushing draconian anti-protest laws through Parliament, the Malinauskas Government ought to be implementing a rent-freeze and other protections for renters”, Mr Bainbridge said.

Further info:

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