

ANTI-POVERTY NETWORK SOUTH AUSTRALIA



MEDIA RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

Low-Income Renters Tell Parliamentary Forum: We Face An Affordability Emergency, We Need To Freeze Rents

"Our rent has just gone up by \$80 per week and we feel we are stuck. We can't afford such a rise, but have been told it's comparable to the area, and we're too scared to move"

Anti-Poverty Network SA, with low-income renters, will be speaking to a Parliamentary Forum on Renting about the rental affordability emergency, and the findings of its recent survey of 301 renters, ["I'm Scared Of My Next Rent Increase"](#).

Anti-Poverty Network SA spokesperson Brendan Folwell said: *"There has been recent progress on making renting fairer, including plans to ban no-cause evictions, which will give renters greater stability and security, and we encourage the State Government to legislate these changes as quickly as possible."*

But we know from our members, and our recent research, that until the state government acts on the affordability emergency, we will continue to see people's lives wrecked by skyrocketing rents.

We know there are people being forced out of rentals, not because they are being evicted, but because it is impossible for them to afford the rent.

We cannot have a fair rental system, until we no longer have the huge, unlimited rent rises that are causing people to be unable to put food on the table or pay for medicines, or effectively be kicked out of their home. The state government needs to also legislate an emergency rent freeze, to give renters, especially those in poverty, the chance to catch their breath after years of massive rises.

It also needs to ramp-up its public housing commitment. 1,000 public homes is nowhere near enough, when there are over 15,000 people on the waiting list, and SA has a shortfall of 32,000 social homes, according to modeling by Homelessness Australia", Mr Folwell said.

Key findings from ['I'm Scared Of My Next Rent Increase'](#), a snapshot of 301 renters:

Financial hardship:

- 80% were experiencing 'rental stress' (spending more than 30% of their income on rent)
- 41% were experiencing 'rental crisis' (spending more than 50% of their income on rent)
- 70% said cost of rent impacted their food budget, that they had to skip meals, cut back on fresh food
- 62% said high rents made it harder to cover medical expenses
- 27% reported having to leave a rental property, because of the size of their last rent rise

Cooling and heating:

- 55% thought their house did not have adequate cooling and heating

Discrimination:

- 59% thought they had experienced discrimination, while applying for rentals, with 27% unsure

What renters want:

- 93% want rent-caps to address massive rent increases

[- Read full summary of findings here](#)

[- Read full report here](#)

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