

PROTECT OUR COMMUNITIES

NO EVICTIONS IN A HEALTH CRISIS

We are a community coalition made up of people and organisations who work with renters and research housing problems. The COVID19 epidemic is a public health crisis that will be made worse by evictions. We call on the Commonwealth, State and Territory governments to ensure no evictions happen during this crisis.

The COVID19 epidemic is causing significant economic harm through the cancellation of events, the disruption of supply chains, and a general reduction in public activity and commerce. Many workers, especially contractors and casual workers, will suffer from lost incomes. Many will fall into rent arrears and be at risk of termination and eviction.

People facing eviction are less able to take actions required to minimise transmission of COVID19, particularly where they become homeless, and will become more vulnerable to illness.

An eviction into homelessness at this time puts great pressure on families and communities in overcrowded homes, crisis accommodation and people sleeping rough. Support services will already be struggling to deal with increased demand and as a community we cannot afford to make it worse.

We call on states and territories to put a stop to evictions.

- Police and court officers should be directed not to carry out or allow any evictions
- Public and community housing providers should immediately cease eviction proceedings against their tenants
- All relevant Commonwealth, State and Territory Ministers should make public statements calling on landlords not to begin proceedings to evict any tenant and to offer leniency on arrears
- Housing departments and councils need to work with shared accommodation providers, including boarding and rooming house operators, to ensure residents are not evicted into more severe homelessness and that their accommodation is healthy
- This would not apply to individuals removed for perpetrating violence.

A temporary eviction moratorium is a necessary measure to prevent the spread of COVID19. The economic costs will need to be shared across the community. Before the stop on evictions is lifted, governments must have a plan to ensure the whole community can recover, and not leave some burdened with debt.

Australia is in crisis. We need to come together and ensure no one loses their home.

Organisational signatories:

Julie Foreman, Executive Officer, **Tenants' Union of NSW**
Cassandra Goldie, Chief Executive Officer, **Australian Council of Social Services**
Kasy Chambers, Executive Director, **Anglicare Australia**
Dr Emma Campbell, Chief Executive Officer, **ACT Council of Social Services**
Joanna Quilty, Chief Executive Officer, **NSW Council of Social Services**
Louise Giolitto, Chief Executive Officer, **WA Council of Social Services**
Jack De Groot, Chief Executive Officer, **Vinnies NSW**
Katherine McKernan, Chief Executive Officer, **Homelessness NSW**
Joe Ball, Chief Executive Officer, **Switchboard Victoria**
Meagan Lawson, Chief Executive Officer, **Council on the Ageing NSW**
Joel Dignam, Executive Director, **Better Renting**
Penny Carr, Chief Executive Officer, **Tenants' Queensland**
Ben Bartl, A/Principal Solicitor, **Tenants' Union of Tasmania**
Tamara Spence, Team Leader, **Darwin Community Legal Service (Tenants Advice Service)**
Charlie Faulder, **Tenants' Union ACT**
Carmen Acosta, Executive Manager, **Tenancy WA**
Adrian Pisarski, Executive Officer, **National Shelter**
John Engeler, Chief Executive Officer, **Shelter NSW**
Travis Gilbert, Chief Executive Officer, **ACT Shelter**
Alice Clark, Executive Director, **Shelter SA**
Iain Maitland, Energy Advocate, **Ethnic Communities Council NSW**
Joe Ball, Chief Executive Officer, **Switchboard Victoria**
Giancarlo de Vera, Senior Policy Officer, **People with Disability Australia**
Nassim Arrage, Chief Executive Officer, **Community Legal Centres Australia**
Tim Leach, Chief Executive Officer, **Community Legal Centres NSW**
Jonathon Huynor, Chief Executive Officer, **Public Interest Advocacy Centre**
Gerard Brody, Chief Executive Officer, **Consumer Action Law Centre**
Vasili Maroulis, Managing Principal Solicitor, **Marrickville Legal Centre**
Joanna Shulman, Chief Executive Officer, **Redfern Legal Centre**
Emma Golledge, Director, **Kingsford Legal Centre**
Truda Gray, Co-ordinator, **Illawarra Legal Centre**
Arlia Fleming, Principal Solicitor, **Elizabeth Evatt Community Legal Centre**
kylie valentine, Research Director and Associate Professor, and Carla Treloar, Director and Scientia Professor, **The Social Policy Research Centre and the Centre for Social Research in Health**
Asha Ramzan, Executive Officer, **Sydney Community Forum**
Magnus Linder, Chief Executive Officer, **Churches Housing**
Miriam Pellicano, Executive Manager, **St Francis Social Services**
Jan Barnett, Josephite Justice Coordinator, **Sisters of St Joseph**
Kate Melhopt, Chief Executive Officer, **South Eastern Community Connect**
Vicki Johnston, Manager, **The Deli Women & Children's Centre**
Janet Green, General Manager, **Junction Neighbourhood Centre**
Nicole Yade, General Manager, **Lou's Place**
Alison Churchill, Chief Executive Officer, **Community Restorative Centre**
Elisa Buggy, Executive Director, **FlatOut Inc**

Yumi Lee, Manager, **Older Women's Network – NSW**
Jaime Mack, Co-ordinator, **Thrive Services**
Alex Long, Chief Executive Officer, **Multicultural Youth Affairs Network - NSW**
Alex White, Secretary, **Unions ACT**
Warren Smith, Assistant National Secretary, **Maritime Union of Australia**
Mel Gatfield, NSW Secretary, **United Workers Union**
Alex North, National Operations Coordinator, **Australian Unemployed Workers Union**
Michael Thomson, Secretary, **National Tertiary Education Union - NSW Division**
Julie Macken, **Justice and Peace Office, Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney**
Michelle Craig, Senior Project Officer, **Aboriginal Resource Unit**
Kerry Ann Pankhurst, Coordinator, **New England and Western TAAS**
Grace Crowley-Shaw, A/Co-ordinator, **Eastern Area Tenants Service**
Franya Repolusk, Co-ordinator, **Western Sydney Tenants Service**
Nicole Grgas, Co-ordinator, **Hunter Tenants Advice and Advocacy Service**
Ned Cooke, A/Co-ordinator, **Inner Sydney Tenants Advice and Advocacy Service**
Eloise Parrab, Co-ordinator, **Inner West Tenancy Service**
Sousan Ghecham, Co-ordinator, **Northern Sydney Area Tenants Service**
Arthur McCulloch, Co-ordinator, **Mid Coast Tenants Advice Service**
Brett Webb, Co-ordinator, **Northern NSW Aboriginal Tenants Service**
Julia Murray, A/Co-ordinator, **Illawarra Tenants Advice and Advocacy Service**
Rita Wilkinson, Coordinator of **Southern Sydney Tenants Advice and Advocacy Service,**
Metro Assist
Sidonie Shaw, Manager, **Central Coast Tenants' Advice and Advocacy Service**
Ben Connor, Co-ordinator, **Blue Mountains Tenants' Advice and Advocacy Service**
Aboriginal Legal Service (NSW/ACT) Ltd – incl. Greater Sydney Aboriginal Tenants
Service and Western Aboriginal Tenants Advice and Advocacy Service
James Conlon, Sustainable Homes Project, **Environment Victoria**
Patrice Moriarty, Social Justice Co-ordinator, **Catholic Diocese of Parramatta**
Ellen Roberts, National Director, **Solar Citizens**
Matthew Keeley, Director, **Youth Law Australia**
Bob Jay, Treasurer, **Combined Pensioners and Superannuants Association**
Bec Reidy, Co-ordinator, **Bidwill Uniting**
Jane Costello, CEO, **Positive Life NSW**
GetUp!

Academic signatories:

Professor Eileen Baldry, UNSW, Deputy Vice-Chancellor Equity, Diversity and Inclusion and Professor of Criminology

Professor Nicole Gurrán, University of Sydney, Urban Planning and Housing, Faculty of Architecture, Design and Planning

Professor Jago Dodson, RMIT University, Urban Planning

Professor Gavin Wood, RMIT University, Emeritus Professor of Housing and Urban Research

Professor Alan Morris, UTS Institute for Public Policy and Governance

Professor Libby Porter, RMIT University, Centre for Urban Research / Sustainability and Urban Planning

Professor Tony Dalton, RMIT University, Emeritus Professor at Centre for Urban Research

Assoc. Professor Ben Spies-Butcher, Macquarie University, Department of Sociology

Assoc. Professor Hazel Easthope, UNSW City Futures Research Centre

Assoc. Professor Kurt Iveson, University of Sydney, School of Geosciences (Urban Geography)

Dr Adam Craig, School of Public Health and Community Medicine, UNSW

Dr Chris Martin, UNSW City Futures Research Centre

Dr Emma Power, Western Sydney University, Geography and Urban Studies

Dr Dallas Rogers, University of Sydney, School of Architecture, Design and Planning

Dr Sophia Maalsen, University of Sydney, School of Architecture, Design and Planning

Dr Kathleen Flanagan, University of Tasmania, Housing & Community Research Unit, School of Social Sciences

Dr Melanie Andersen, UNSW School of Public Health and Community Medicine

Dr Kate Hunter, The George Institute for Global Health

Dr Laura Crommelin, UNSW City Futures Research Centre

Dr Ruth McCausland, Senior Research Fellow | School of Social Sciences

Dr Sharon Parkinson, Swinburne University of Technology, Centre for Urban Transitions

Dr Edgar Liu, UNSW City Futures Research Centre

Dr Alistair Sisson, UNSW City Futures Research Centre

Dr Julie Lawson, RMIT University, Centre for Urban Research

Dr Patricia Cullen, UNSW Public Health and Community Medicine

Dr Andrea Sharam, RMIT University, School of Property, Construction and Property Management

Dr Ryan van den Nouwelant, Western Sydney University School of Social Sciences

Dr Natalie Osborne, Griffith University, School of Environment and Science.

Dr Jess Gerard, University of Melbourne, Education, Equity & Politics

Bronwyn Bates, Urban Research Program, Western Sydney University

Chris Hartley, UNSW Centre for Social Impact

Ania Anderst, The George Institute for Global Health