

To Whom It May Concern,

I have been a renter in Sydney for 8 years. It has not been a pleasant experience. In Victoria and Queensland renters can have pets without the landlords unreasonably refusing so. Why is NSW so backwards? Why can't our laws be in line with other states? I didn't tell my landlord I had a cat once and one of the neighbour's reported this to the landlord. My cat is my family, she has been there for me during tough times. The mental benefits she has given me are priceless. Without her I would not be here. I would not be here working and contributing my taxes and my services to the people of NSW. Having a pet is a human right, they are part of the family. It was extremely mean and inhumane, and I can't believe landlords are still allowed to ban pets in the state of NSW. Despite having the largest proportion of renters. I work in allied health care, and I am unable to afford buying a place to live in NSW. I have no choice but to rent. PLEASE PLEASE change the laws to be in line with other states, the fact that this hasn't already been done is beyond belief.

Instead of moving out of that property I rented, I chose to stay with my cat. I had to tape newspaper to the windows so my neighbour would not see the cat. I had to stop my cat from jumping on windows. I lived like this for 2.5 years and I was constantly anxious of being caught. It was truly inhumane, and I wished I moved from that property sooner. Which brings me to my next point. Moving is stressful and costly, which is why I didn't move sooner. It costs an average renter at least \$4000, including cleaning fees, removalists fees and time taken off work. This is why I didn't move until we got evicted because the landlord wanted to move back in. This felt like the rug was pulled from under us. It feels like someone has control over our lives.

We moved to another rental after being evicted and 11 months until our lease we were yet again evicted. This time we were upfront we told the landlord we have one cat, and they were fine with it. We just got settled and felt a bit relaxed after moving and we were evicted yet again. Again, for the same reason, the landlord wanted to move back in. It was stressful and traumatic to be evicted again. And it costs us thousands of dollars to move, not to mention the extreme stress it put me through. More days of work. Again, I was not a productive member of society, and it made my mental health worse. I had to see a psychologist about this, and Medicare had to pay for these sessions (the taxpayer had to pay for these sessions).

I moved onto another rental and my lease is ending. I live in constant anxiety and fear about being evicted and this has made me more depressed. I am a working member of society and yet I don't feel like I have a stable home. I feel like I have a sword of Damocles hanging over my head constantly. This is so wrong. Housing is a human right. Without stable housing how do we progress as a person. Housing is at the bottom of the hierarchy in the Maslow's hierarchy of needs. Without proper housing how do we progress to the next levels. This is an absolute joke that housing is so unstable for renters. I blame the NIMBY's and the lack of affordable housing. If there was more housing supply, property prices would be lower, rents would be lower. We can at least afford to buy a property eventually. And we could move on with our lives, perhaps even move up some levels on Maslow's hierarchy of needs. Society would be more productive and happier and not spend so much money on mental health. I feel like I am in a constant state of survival as a renter. I cannot even think about having kids. And don't we need more people to have kids as an ageing population. The more kids we have the more taxpayers we have to pay for an ageing population. I would love to have kids. Homelessness costs society a lot more than providing housing for the homeless. The cost to house the homeless is less than the hospital bills that the state must pay when they end up in hospital due to their homelessness. The homeless can have roof over the head and then they can think about

working and contributing to society. Sometimes I feel homeless as a renter, I really do not have a home either. Why can't we be like other countries like Germany, where they have strong rental laws protecting renters. Can we at least move closer in that direction? Please Please Please.

I am so angry at the whole situation I have been put in.

Housing impacts every aspect of life and society. If we had stability as a renter, it would change our lives so much. It would be better for society and life. These change in laws have come too late. I just hope you make big changes to these laws so we can all breathe a little easier.

Yours truly,

An Angry Renter.