

Ms Penny Carr
Chief Executive Officer
Tenants Queensland Inc
Sent by email: ceo@tenantsqld.org.au

Dear Ms Carr

Thank you for your letter dated 10 November providing Queensland Labor with the opportunity to respond to key policy issues of importance to Tenants Queensland.

I would like thank you for your work as a member of Minister de Brenni's Ministerial Housing Council and congratulate you for your continued advocacy for tenant rights.

The Palaszczuk Government recognises the importance of giving every Queensland a pathway to a safe, secure and affordable home and that is why under Labor's \$1.8 billion Queensland Housing Strategy 2017-2027 (Housing Strategy) we strongly support a housing system that is fair, contemporary and assures the safety and dignity of all Queenslanders.

The Palaszczuk Government understands that families who are renting are looking for stability and certainty, so it is crucial that tenants have the protections, advice and advocacy services they need to ensure they can continue to live in safe, secure and affordable homes.

This is why the Palaszczuk Government made a commitment in 2015 to reinstating the tenants' advice and referral service. In delivering on this commitment Labor proudly committed \$26.4 million to fund the establishment of QSTARS. A service that has helped many Queenslanders under a Labor led Queensland.

The Palaszczuk Government has recently committed \$37.5 million to the delivery of the state-wide tenancy advice and referral service for the next five years until 2023. The Palaszczuk Government's commitment is in stark contrast to the previous LNP government who cut tenancy advisory services. It's estimated that after the LNP's heartless cuts, only one out of every 40 tenants who sought support actually managed to get through to speak with someone.

As you would be aware, on 25 October 2017 we delivered our initial reforms to Queensland's residential tenancy laws, by passing a law which will require rental properties to meet prescribed minimum standards. This reform will deliver a guarantee to renters that their homes must be safe, fit for occupation, and have basic amenities that are in working order.



In Parliament, under Tim Nicholls' leadership, the LNP actually voted against these new laws. Four days before the start of the election campaign, it was a stunningly blatant demonstration by the LNP that they continue to be deeply out of touch with community needs and are still shamelessly hostile to people who rent their home.

To take practical effect, these new laws need the detailed minimum standards to be prescribed by regulation. A second-term Palaszczuk Government will release proposals seeking feedback from renters, landlords and industry on the detailed content of this regulation before the end of June 2018 and will make this regulation before the end of October 2018.

We understand that there is more work to be done. The Palaszczuk Government is committed to make renting fair, so tenants feel secure exercising their rights.

Under the Palaszczuk Government's Housing Strategy 2017-2020 Action Plan we have committed to reform the *Residential Tenancies and Rooming Accommodation Act 2008*, so as to create a fully contemporary legislative framework.

A second-term Palaszczuk Government will release a discussion paper to examine and consult on a range of issues affecting tenants and property owners before June 2018. If legislation is required, a re-elected Palaszczuk Government will introduce a Bill by June 2019.

The Palaszczuk Government will deliver further reforms in partnership with stakeholders, and through consultation and advocacy that brings the community with us so that we can deliver enduring change which has a lasting benefit. This approach to governing and leading is at the heart of how the Palaszczuk Government works.

Labor is proud of the work we have started under our \$1.8 billion Housing Strategy. No other political party in Queensland has the skills and experience actually to deliver fairer laws and effective practical support for renters in Queensland.

Yours sincerely



JACKIE TRAD MP
DEPUTY PREMIER
Minister for Transport and
Minister for Infrastructure and Planning