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Top 10 electorates in Queensland reveal growing number of places where more people rent than own

An increasing number of Queenslanders are renting their homes rather than owning them reflecting a growing trend in housing affordability, according to a new coalition of community organisations calling on the Queensland Government to make renting fairer.

Figures incorporating the 2016 census data show the electorates of Brisbane central (53.2%), South Brisbane (52%) and Woodridge (50.8%) now have more renters than home owners.

Also making it into the top 10 rental suburbs are Bundamba (49%), Cook (48%), Southport (44.1%), Coomera (43.2%), Townsville (43%), Waterford (43%) and Cairns (41.8%).

A broad group of community-based organisations will on Thursday launch the Make Renting Fair Queensland campaign in response to the State Government's Open Doors to Rent Reform public consultation.

The groups – Tenants Queensland, Community Legal Centres Queensland, Mackay Regional Community Legal Centre, Queensland Council of Social Service, LawRight, Community Plus+ QLD, Queensland Youth Housing Coalition, Youth Affairs Network of Queensland, QShelter, Queensland Disability Network, Mission Australia, Queensland Alliance for Mental Health, Hervey Bay Neighbourhood Centre, Queensland Disability Network and the Brisbane Renters Alliance are calling for specific law reforms to the Residential Tenancies Act.

Their calls include preventing 'no grounds' evictions, restricting rent increases to once per year and requiring the owner to justify any increase 20% greater than CPI and making it easier for renters to retrieve their bond when moving.

Tenants Queensland CEO Penny Carr said with a growing number of Queenslanders renting for longer, increasing numbers of renting families with dependent children and older people, it was vital we act now to ensure tenants' rights were protected.

"Times are changing, more people are renting than ever before and we need to make sure our tenancy laws are keeping up," said Ms Carr.

"People who rent their home should have the right to stay if they are doing the right thing.

"Right now, renters can be asked to leave without being given any reason. This uproots families from their homes with little notice and sometimes on unfair grounds.

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Alliance Members:

Brisbane Renters Alliance
CLCQ

Community Plus+ QLD

Hervey Bay Neighbourhood Centre

Mackay Regional Community Legal Centre

Mission Australia

QCOSS

QNN

QShelter

QYHC

Tenants Queensland

YANN

“We need to change the laws now to stop people from being evicted from their homes without any reason, stop the churn.”

Following Thursday’s launch, the Alliance will be rallying renters to support their seven-point plan which can be found on their website. By signing up to follow the campaign, supporters will be kept up to date on the campaigning work as well as what the government does following the end of its consultation. www.makerentingfairqld.org.au

Make Renting Fair will also be asking tenants to share their stories as part of a special “Home Truths” series by uploading a short video to the Make Renting Fair in Queensland Facebook page or website or at www.facebook.com/makerentingfairqld

“It’s a fundamental right of every person in Australia to have a safe and secure place to live,” said Ms Carr.

“This alliance represents a voice for all people living in rental properties, particularly the more vulnerable and disadvantaged in our communities.

“We’re working to ensure that specific reforms that impact directly on our renter community are made as part of the Government’s public consultation process and urge all renters to get behind our Make Renting Fair in Queensland campaign.”

-ENDS-

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Background

The Make Renting Fair in Queensland alliance comprises a broad group of community based organisations and represents a voice for all Queenslanders, particularly the more vulnerable and disadvantaged relying on rental housing.

In October the State Government announced the start of its Open Doors to Renting Reform consultation process, which is calling for community feedback on various aspects of rental life and the system itself with a view to reforming it. Government’s consultation ends on November 30.

This campaign mirrors the other successful campaigns run in Victoria and New South Wales.