



Legislative Council Legal and Social Issues Committee

Inquiry: Inquiry into the Rental and Housing Affordability Crisis in Victoria

Hearing Date: 23 August 2023

Question[s] taken on notice

Directed to: Council on the Ageing, Ben Rogers

Received Date: 18 October 2023

1. **Aiv PUGLIELLI, page 69**

Question Asked:

And in the instance where there is someone who is facing that risk of eviction or self-eviction by means of rent increase, would that obviously quite directly help them in that scenario?

Ben ROGERS: I mean, in that scenario, yes, absolutely. I cannot talk to exactly the stories that we hear on our helpline – I am happy to provide that on notice as well – but particularly in that scenario we would see that as a real support and benefit.

Response:

Following review of calls to COTA Victoria’s information, the following case study has been identified as relevant:

CASE STUDY

Caller (f61) has been renting accommodation in the outer Western suburbs of Melbourne. For the past 5 years her rent has been increasing and she stated it’s becoming unmanageable, especially because the property owners have not fixed either heating or cooling problems with the house. She states that she is not wanting to “make waves” because landlords have all the power and she needs to live in this area as she has medical conditions that need her to be close to a major hospital. She also has a dog and believes that would impact on her ability to find new accommodation. She has stated that the landlords have essentially said that if she “pushes the point” they will sell the house and she will be evicted. She looked for alternative rentals in her area and there was only one available that would be in her price-range as a DSP recipient. She states that during the summer the house is almost unliveable due to poor insulation and no air-conditioning.