

**FRIENDS OF PUBLIC HOUSING VICTORIA**

**ADDITIONAL COMMENTS FOR THE INQUIRY  
TO BE INCLUDED WITH OUR SUBMISSION**

**Re the following Term of Reference**

**-the effects on current public housing tenants, including, whether they will be moved to accommodation that is secure, stable and fit for purpose;**

Government fact sheets to public tenants state, 'The options available to you for moving will depend on vacancies at the time of your move, and may include public or community housing, and private rental properties'

Additionally, although tenants are often asked to provide the Department with five choices of specifying their preferred areas and requirements, the government states in writing 'We will offer you two housing options at the move-out stage of the renewal process'  
( Walker St, Northcote Renewal -April 2017)

This raises the question that public tenants on very low incomes and pensions, with limited English or literacy skills, might have no choice but to move into a private rental property. Nothing is stated about whether this will be subsidized by the government in any way or, if so, for how long? Maybe the Commonwealth Rent Assistance is the only recourse that will be available to these tenants.

Former public tenants might find themselves paying far more rent than they can afford. This will put them in an extremely precarious position, regarding their ability to manage, their housing security and their risk of homelessness- given the fact that these public housing 'redevelopment' programs can take several years to complete.