

Inquiry into the Government's response to the Covid-19 pandemic



YOUR SUBMISSION

Submission:

I am a resident of the unlicensed rooming house situated at [REDACTED]. My submission relates to my grave concern over the failure of Victoria Police, and in particular the uniform members at Northcote Police Station, to take any action in response to my multiple complaints.

The owner of the property I board at has travelled to and from the house 6 days a week throughout the COVID crisis and 'lockdown'. He is mentally ill and believes he is performing renovations to the property - he claims that tradespeople don't do a good enough job and only he has the special skills needed to complete the various tasks to the high standard necessary. The work he does is a disaster but that is outside the scope of this submission. There are only 4 residents who still live here. 2 of us (myself included) have serious health problems and a COVID infection may well prove fatal.

I first made contact with the Darebin council and telephoned the mayor. She had the council health officers call the landlord and try to explain to him the danger he was putting himself and us in. I overheard his conversation with them, he assured them he didn't pay any attention to advice from the Chief Health Officer because that information came ultimately from China. The council building department was unable to help either. Of course these council officers would not attend the address to make any inspection. I was encouraged to call 000.

I called 000 to report the problem and was told to fill out the covid emergency report website. I did so. Subsequently I attended the Northcote Police Station to report the matter. The policeman hiding behind his screen told me that I would need to apply to VCAT to stop the landlord coming and going. At a later date I again called 000 and told them there was likely to be considerable violence against the landlord's person unless he was removed. This was because the landlord had turned up that morning visibly sick, coughing and sneezing in our kitchen and common areas. 2 police turned up to the address and spoke to the landlord. He assured them he owned the property so had every right to come and go as he pleased, and was only sneezing because of 'plaster dust' (he hadn't started doing any work and there was no plaster dust) and they laughed at me and walked off.

As of last week he has started bringing his elderly father-in-law, who is aged over 80, with him to 'help' with his imaginary renovation work. The landlord lives in Coburg. It may be a coincidence but Coburg (City of Moreland) and the City of Darebin have both had COVID outbreaks in the last week.

If he is infected then I expect we all are too, but something must be done about the incompetent apolice who

are simply too stupid to understand the gravity of the situation we are in.

Do you have any additional comments or suggestions?:

The officer in command of Northcote police station and all those members involved should be disciplined and/or sacked by the Professional Standards Department. If the landlord could be compelled to be tested for COVID, and perhaps prevented from bringing his father in law on his daily excursion (as well as coming here he visits various shops and hardware stores on a daily basis and often lunches in the local cafes as well) that would be good as well.

