

Tenants' Union - Funding Increase

Mr BAYLEY question to ATTORNEY-GENERAL

My constituent question is from Ben Bartl of the Tenants' Union of Tasmania, who writes:

It is critical for a well-functioning housing system that Tasmania's 58,000 rental households have access to advice and representation. Whilst in 2021 the Australian Census found that the number of renters in Tasmania had increased by 11 per cent, there has been no increase to our core funding for many years.

The Tenants' Union receives the least funding of any tenant advocacy service in Australia. Renters in Tasmania are the poorest in the country and live with some of Australia's weakest rental protections. The lack of funding means that we struggle to meet demand. As a result, our sole lawyer in northern Tasmania often has to choose between attending court in Launceston, Devonport or Burnie.

There are 10 eviction proceedings listed in the Launceston, Burnie and Burnie Magistrates Court this morning. Without funding for two lawyers in northern Tasmania, they will be unable to provide representation.

Will the Tasmanian government commit to increase the funding for the Tenants' Union of Tasmania?