

The Senate
Community Affairs References Committee
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

To the Senate Community Affairs References Committee,

RESPONSE TO THE INQUIRY INTO THE WORSENING RENTAL CRISIS

Thank you for extending an invite to the Australian Youth Affairs Coalition (AYAC) to respond to the Senate Community Affairs References Committee Inquiry into the worsening rental crisis. AYAC is the national voice and advocate for young people. As a coalition, we represent more than 4.5 million young people aged 12–25 across the country. As the national peak body, our members include young people, youth-led organisations and youth sector organisations that support and work with young people.

As the interim CEO, I'm keen to progress AYAC's advocacy efforts for young people in Australia particularly regarding rental, housing and homelessness issues. However, AYAC is currently going through a renewal phase including recruiting new staff, strengthening its relationship to young people, our member organisations and State / Territory youth peak bodies. As such, we are unable to submit a full response to this inquiry but provide information collated through our member organisations who have done extensive work in the areas of housing, homelessness and rental affordability. AYAC fully supports the information contained in these submissions along with their recommendations, which provide invaluable information to the Committee's inquiry. Below is a list of submissions and reports from the State/Territory youth peak organisations, closely related to the Committee's inquiry.

- [Submission to the Review of the Residential Tenancies Act 1995 – December 2022 Youth Affairs Council South Australia \(YACSA\)](#)
- [Inquiry Into Homelessness Australia – 2020 - YACSA](#)
- [Young Renters Report – 2021 Youth Action NSW](#)
- [Submission To the Inquiry Into the Financial Administration Of Homelessness Services In Western Australia – Youth Affairs Council Western Australia \(YACWA\)](#)
- [Submission to the Parliamentary Inquiry into the rental and housing affordability crisis in Victoria – 2023, Youth Affairs Council of Victoria \(YACVic\)](#)

It is important to note that AYAC and the youth sector across Australia is supportive of the Federal Government's work in this area including its willingness to engage with AYAC and key youth housing and rental services on this issue. Nonetheless, there is considerable improvements, at a national level, for strategic approaches to address the worsening rental crisis. The inquiry must consider the impact on young people who face unique barriers, challenges and inequities of the current system. In particular, the committee should consider the increasing instances of homelessness as a direct result of the rental and housing affordability crisis.

AYAC urges the committee to consider a dedicated national child and youth housing strategy to provide a targeted, coordinated and long-lasting action to end child and youth homelessness as the place to start. AYAC encourages the inquiry to note and implement the recommendations highlighted in the reports above as a key process resulting from the committee's investigations.

We look forward to seeing the final report by the Committee and are available to answer any questions about this letter if required.

Yours sincerely,

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