



18 July 2014

The Research Director  
Transport, Housing and Local Government Committee  
Parliament House  
George Street  
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Research Director

**INQUIRY INTO THE *RESIDENTIAL TENANCIES AND ROOMING ACCOMMODATION AMENDMENT BILL 2014***

Thank you for the invitation to make a submission on the *Residential Tenancies and Rooming Accommodation Amendment Bill 2014*, introduced by Ms Jo-ann Miller MP, Member for Bundamba, on 3 April 2014 and referred to the committee for detailed examination and report.

The Bill would amend the *Residential Tenancies and Rooming Accommodation Act 2008* to allow the Minister to prescribe minimum standards for private rental housing and rooming accommodation in relation to matters such as:

- sanitation, drainage, cleanliness and repair of premises;
- ventilation and insulation;
- protection from damp and its effects;
- construction, condition, structures, safety and situation of premises;
- the dimensions, cubical extent and height of rooms in the premises;
- privacy and security;
- provision of water supply, storage and sanitary facilities;
- laundry and cooking facilities
- lighting;
- freedom from vermin infestation; and
- energy efficiency.

The functions of the Anti-Discrimination Commission Queensland include promoting the understanding, acceptance and public discussion of human rights in Queensland.

The right to an adequate standard of living, including housing is a right of everyone recognised by the *International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights*.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Entry into force in Australia on 10 March 1976

Article 11 of the Covenant states:

The States Parties to the present Covenant recognize the right of everyone to an adequate standard of living for himself and his family, including adequate food, clothing and housing, and to the continuous improvement of living conditions.

This right is affirmed in the *Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities*.<sup>2</sup> Article 28 of the Convention deals with the right to an adequate standard of living and social protection and states:

States Parties recognize the right of persons with disabilities to an adequate standard of living for themselves and their families, including adequate food, clothing and housing, and to the continuous improvement of living conditions, and shall take appropriate steps to safeguard and promote the realization of this right without discrimination on the basis of disability.

In relation to children, Article 27 of the *Convention on the Rights of the Child*<sup>3</sup> states, inter alia:

1. States Parties recognize the right of every child to a standard of living adequate for the child's physical, mental, spiritual, moral and social development.


....

3. States Parties, in accordance with national conditions and within their means, shall take appropriate measures to assist parents and others responsible for the child to implement this right and shall in case of need provide material assistance and support programmes, particularly with regard to nutrition, clothing and housing.

The Commission supports the prescription of minimum standards of accommodation that are consistent with the right of everyone to an adequate standard of living, and to the protection of the more vulnerable members of our society.

Thank you for providing the Commission with the opportunity to make this submission.

Yours sincerely



**KEVIN COCKS AM**  
**Anti-Discrimination Commissioner Queensland**

<sup>2</sup> Entry into force in Australia on 16 August 2008

<sup>3</sup> Entry into force in Australia on 16 January 1991