

MEDIA RELEASE

Cuts to another vital Queensland service - does not add up!

25 JULY 2012

The Services Union (the Australian Services Union – Queensland and Northern Administrative Branch) is appalled by the State Government’s decision to axe vital funding to Queensland’s Tenant Advice and Advocacy Services.

The funding cuts will affect 24 organisations which provide 29 service outlets in mostly regional areas, and could see another 100 Queenslanders lose their jobs.

This is another high profile cut in vital frontline community services.

Secretary of The Services Union Kath Nelson said that this latest decision by the State Government does not add up.

“Firstly, this is an abhorrent decision by the State Government considering Queensland has the highest proportion of renters than any other state or territory, other than the Northern Territory, in Australia,” she said.

“The national renting average is 29.6%, however Queensland has an average of 33.2% and people rely on the vital advice and advocacy that these services provide.”

“What does not make any sense is that the funding for these services comes from the interest earned from the bonds paid by Queenslanders who rent their dwellings, so these services are funded by renters themselves.”

“These are the services that have helped thousands of Queenslanders during our spate of natural disasters over the last few years and they are the services that educate renters about their rights and responsibilities as renters, which in turn can only be to the benefit of home owners,” Ms Nelson said.

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The State Government announced that the Residential Tenancies Authority (RTA) will now bear the brunt of this decision.

“The State Government needs to come up with an explanation to renting Queenslanders as to why an important advice and information service that they pay for is being cut.”

The State Government also needs to give answers on how they will now manage the increased workloads of workers at the RTA and also how they will now provide the vital services required by Queenslanders that have been axed overnight.”

“This decision is a blatant attack on renting Queenslanders and our Union will be strongly advocating for affected working Queenslanders,” Ms Nelson said.

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