

DON'T BLAME THE LANDLORDS

The article in Sunday Mail 6/3/16 (Landlords to face Bond blitz) is misleading and deserves a comment. Whilst we agree that Landlords who flout the law need to pay the price, it is wrong to imply that the whole problem rests with landlords. The reason that there are claims on bonds is because tenants have breached their tenancy agreement and forfeited bond money belonging to Housing SA. If the government has paid out \$8.2 million to cover breaches by tenants, the problem is with the tenants, not the landlords. If the Tenant does not pay the rent, or leaves the premises dirty or damaged, don't blame the landlord. Unfortunately, Housing SA gives additional bonds to people who have forfeited their original bond, but no one is doing anything about this – why target landlords but not these tenants?

Tony Elmers' (Housing Trust Tenants Association Secretary) comment that tenants have stated that their home had been looked after etc but the landlord did not give the bond back to Housing SA is curious. The bond is not given to the Landlord in cash, but a guarantee and Housing SA would not pay a landlord without proof of the claim (even if the tenant agrees). Housing SA wants to see receipts and proof of any claim before a payment is made and this is commendable as they are protecting taxpayers' money.

I would like to see the Housing Trust Tenants Association say to the government that tenants who default should not be given numerous bonds plus one or two week's free rent each time they move.

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