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The Hon. Richard Wynne
Level 16, 8 Nicholson Street
East Melbourne, VIC 3002
By email: richard.wynne@minstaff.vic.gov.au

23 March 2020

Dear Minister Wynne

Support for renters

We are writing to ask you to take urgent action to prevent any escalation of Victoria's housing and homelessness crisis during the current pandemic.

In these times of great stress and uncertainty, it is crucial that we support and protect people to have safe and secure housing.

Many Victorians are currently facing added housing stress during the current pandemic. We are receiving significant correspondence from many renters who are deeply worried that if their employment is reduced or cancelled due to the coronavirus crisis they will struggle to pay their rent or will need to choose between rent and food and other essentials.

Ensuring no one is made homeless or pushed into housing insecurity as a result of the pandemic is essential. We all should have a safe, secure and affordable place to call home, and we must look out for those whose housing security is under threat during the current crisis.

We understand that your government is meeting with the federal and state governments in coming days to consider plans to assist renters and we encourage you to include the following in these plans:

- A moratorium on evictions and rental increases for at least 6 months;
- A mechanism to provide rent relief for those who are losing income and may not be in a position to pay their usual rent; and
- Payment flexibility for essential utilities, and a guarantee of continued connection for power, water and the internet for everyone.

We also reiterate concerns raised in previous correspondence from Adam Bandt and Samantha Ratnam in relation to the government taking urgent steps to include housing provisions for Victoria's homeless population as a part of state's response to COVID-19.

We raise these issues while also acknowledging and appreciating that you and your government are managing a very complex and rapidly changing situation. We have also appreciated the timely and appropriate responses from the government in a number of areas in addressing this unprecedented event and in protecting the community.

We look forward to your response and working with you to ensure all Victorians have a place to call home during the current crisis.

Yours sincerely



Samantha Ratnam
Leader of the Victorian Greens



Ellen Sandell
Member for Melbourne



Sam Hibbins
Member for Prahran



Tim Read
Member for Brunswick