

CALL THIS A HOME ?

CAMPAIGN FOR SAFE ROOMING HOUSES IN VICTORIA

www.callthisahome.net www.facebook.com/callthisahome
www.gopetition.com.au/petitions/make-victorian-rooming-houses-safe.html

MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate release
Friday 30 October 2009

COMMUNITY CAMPAIGN WELCOMES GOVERNMENT ACTION ON ROOMING HOUSES

The 'Call This A Home?' campaign has welcomed the Victorian Government's much anticipated response to the Rooming House Standards Task Force recommendations.

The Tenants Union of Victoria (TUV), the Council to Homeless Persons (CHP), Victorian Council of Social Services (VCOSS) and the Community Housing Federation of Victoria (CHFV) participated in the task force and fully support the final recommendations as a necessary and comprehensive suite of reforms. We believe the recommendations will help ensure rooming houses operating in Victoria provide affordable and appropriate accommodation to low income Victorians.

The recommendations include:

- Mandatory registration of operators and premises;
- Improving standards of safety and amenity;
- Strengthening compliance and enforcement; and
- Increasing the supply of alternative rental housing

The community sector advocated strongly that the operators need to be sent a powerful message that there are community expectations about how people are treated, particularly vulnerable residents. The task force recommendations, if implemented in full, will ensure that these expectations are met by achieving greater compliance with regulations and should improve private rooming house management practices, said CTAH campaign spokesperson, Mark O'Brien from the Tenants Union of Victoria.

For interview arrangements and further information:

Toby Archer
Tenants Union of Victoria

0417 138 471
tarcher@tuv.org.au

Cath Smith
Victorian Council of Social Service

0421 350 643
cath.smith@vcoss.org.au