



The Hon Melissa Horne MP

Minister for Consumer Affairs, Gaming and Liquor Regulation

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CERTAINTY AND SUPPORT FOR TENANTS TO THE OTHER SIDE

The pandemic has made paying the rent hard for many Victorians.

But thanks to a shared partnership between tenants, landlords and government, thousands of Victorians have been able to negotiate a fair reduction in rent.

In fact, as of the start of this month, more than 57,000 tenants and landlords had registered a reduced rent agreement with Consumer Affairs Victoria.

The *Victorian Budget 2020/21* will continue to provide ongoing support to help keep tenants in their homes, including \$80 million set aside in April to give certainty for those Victorians facing financial hardship.

The Budget also provides a further \$6 million, ensuring Consumer Affairs Victoria can continue to provide support through the Residential Tenancies Dispute Resolution Scheme and the Residential Tenancy Relief Scheme.

To help vulnerable tenants, an additional \$600,000 was announced and has been provided to advocacy groups to continue their crucial work providing assistance throughout the pandemic, including support for Victorians from culturally and linguistically diverse communities.

Victorian hospitality venues have also struggled during this pandemic. To help this important industry get back on its feet, a dedicated Licensed Hospitality Venue Fund of \$251 million has been made available to get licensed hospitality venues ready for COVID Normal – and Victorians safely back into the venues they love.

Licensed venues will also have their 2020 and 2021 licence fees waived – putting money back into the pockets of business owners.

The Labor Government also wants to make sure Victorians building or renovating their homes have confidence that their engineering work meets an established and high standard.

That's why \$4.9 million will support the sector's Professional Engineers Registration Scheme to become operational. The scheme will ensure that engineers who provide services to Victorians achieve, or exceed, a specified level of qualifications, experience and professional development.

The scheme will be in place for engineers who provide services in the structural, civil, electrical, mechanical and fire safety fields by the end of 2021.

Quotes attributable to the Minister for Consumer Affairs, Gaming and Liquor Regulation Melissa Horne

"It's been a tough year for many, particularly tenants. We've provided support and certainty throughout the pandemic – that will continue into our recovery too."

"Every Victorian has a favourite local venue. To help restart our much-loved hospitality sector, we're providing ongoing financial support so they can get back to business, serving and employing Victorians."

"The new engineers' registration scheme will ensure Victorians building or renovating have confidence their engineering work meet the highest standards."

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