



Residential Tenancies Act Reform: What's family violence got to do with it?

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Family Violence & Residential Tenancies



- Family violence (FV) is a leading cause of homelessness in Victoria, particularly for women and young people (Parliament of Victoria, 2021, p. xxi).
- Complex risk & safety factors that have consequences for a victim-survivor's housing.
- Cycle of homelessness as a result of experiencing FV is common.
- Creating an environment where victim-survivors can stay safely in their rental property.

Royal Commission into Family Violence



- The RCFV identified several issues for victim-survivors emerging from the interrelationship between FV & residential tenancies.
 - Entering a new tenancy agreement
 - Apportioning liability
 - Property modifications
 - Termination of tenancies
 - Blacklisting

Royal Commission into Family Violence



- Recommendations 116 - 120:
 - **Consider & make changes to address these issues in the review of the *Residential Tenancies Act 1997*.**
 - Encourage use of applications under section 233A of the *Residential Tenancies Act*.
 - Close the gap between VCAT and Magistrate's Court.
 - Practice directions, education and training.

Safe at Home



- Preferred housing response to family violence.
- Risk and safety informed.
- Residential tenancy reform provides critical enablers of a Safe at Home approach.

Thank You

