



Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2024–25

Answer to question taken on notice

Asked by: Mr Shane Rattenbury MLA

Addressed to: Dr John Boersig

In relation to: Rent Relief Program

Hearing: 10 November 2025

Uncorrected Proof Transcript p 8

Transcript provided: 12 November 2025

Answer Due: 19 November 2025

Dr Boersig took on notice the following question(s):

MR RATTENBURY: Okay. Thank you. And I noted that Legal Aid ACT supported the call for the continuation of the Rent Relief Fund ahead of the budget. We now see that that service was discontinued. I guess, can you outline for us why you thought the Rent Relief Program was so effective?

Dr Boersig: Can I take that on notice?

MR RATTENBURY: Sure.

Legal Aid ACT: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

Legal Aid ACT operates the Tenancy Advice Service providing assistance to vulnerable tenants. Through this service, we have answered approximately 4,300 calls a year, facilitated a duty service at the ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal (ACAT) for members of the community to access one-off non-means tested legal advice, and approved grants of ongoing legal assistance and representation to vulnerable tenants and occupants. Although the Commission is not involved in either the administration or distribution of the Rent Relief Fund (RRF), we have been able to better assist clients in having their Termination and Possession for rental arrears matters resolved in ACAT where clients have accessed or are seeking to access the RRF, allowing them to remain in the tenancy.

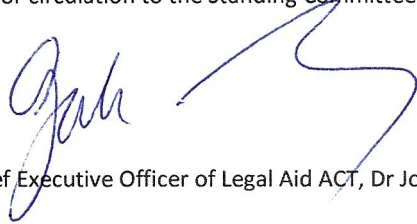
The majority of our vulnerable clients fall into rental arrears where they experience a break in employment, a relationship break up, family violence, or where they are awaiting a visa with working rights. These issues are only further exacerbated by the ongoing cost of living crisis. The RRF was able to temporarily assist these clients in maintaining their housing through payment of arrears until their financial position improved, allowing these clients time to engage in financial counselling, secure employment as well as legal and non-legal support. Maintaining these tenancies reduced pressure on the public housing priority, high needs and standard waiting lists.

OFFICIAL

These considerations and experiences prompted my comments on behalf of Legal Aid ACT to the joint submission to the 2025-26 ACT Budget, which called for the continuation of the RRF.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Legal Affairs

Signature:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'John', followed by a large, stylized flourish that extends to the right.

By the Chief Executive Officer of Legal Aid ACT, Dr John Boersig

Date:

14/11/25