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Sent: Wednesday, 11 December 2019 7:34 PM
To: DJCS-CAV-rentalreforms (DJCS)
Cc: act@tenantsvic.org.au
Subject: My submission on mould and damp issues

From: Shelly Franks <t[REDACTED]>
Subject: My submission on mould and damp issues My postcode: [REDACTED]

My submission:

I have personally been affected by mould and damp issues in rentals - developing toxic mould poisoning in 2 different rental properties, where damp and mould issues weren't disclosed and weren't apparent when I signed the lease. There was inadequate air ventilation and then the pre existing mould and damp problems which had been "covered over" at the 2 different properties. I signed a 12 month lease in both instances that cost me dearly; with my health deteriorating rapidly, the lack of response from the real estate agents & owners, me having to purchase air purifiers and fans to try to fix remedy my failing health in the early stages of the exposure, and going back and forth with emails & phone calls trying to get the problem (which IS the responsibility of the owner).

The Victorian Government should be putting into place strong protections to renters in regards to mould and damp in properties. I know of a situation where a family of 8 were living in a rental property that had extreme mould and damp issues. They would have never moved into the property had they known there was pre existing damp and mould conditions. 4 of the 6 children subsequently developed asthma and rashes and were ill often (having to be hospitalised in some instances!), the parents developed extreme fatigue and exhaustion as well as problems with their breathing, and the father ended up committing suicide. This was a professional couple, the husband was a Senior Veterinary Surgeon and the wife a Nurse. The amount of stresses that renters have to go through, with discovering their rental property, which initially looked to be suitable, turned out to be a health disaster. There should be a register of problem rental properties, in regards to issues with damp and mould, that tenants can check to see, just as there is a register when you purchase a 2nd hand vehicle, to see if it's been involved in any serious accidents or compromised its integrity.

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