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Subject: My submission on minimum standards

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My submission:

Heating and cooling are essential services and given the current costs of electricity there should be incentives for landlords to install energy efficient appliances. Many people who are not in a financial position to buy (and this is becoming more and more of a problem) are forced to rent. Single parents, carers and old age pensioners for example, the very people who are most at risk of adverse health outcomes from extremes of temperature. Ceiling fans are not enough when the temperature outside is 45 degrees. At the very least there should be adequate heating and cooling in the living area. By adequate I do not mean a small reverse cycle unit in a large space. Ideally there would be ducted heating and cooling throughout the whole house. Simple things like window screens are also a must to allow fresh air into the house while keeping the mosquitoes out and to allow evaporative air conditioners to work effectively. Renters should be told before applying for a property if a house does not meet the minimum standards to benefit those who do have the luxury of refusing a property offered to them. Many of us don't have that luxury and we have to take whatever derelict shack we can get.

This submission to the Victorian Government consultation on the RTA Regulatory Impact Statement was sent via Tenants Victoria's website. It represents the views of the author only and does not represent the views of Tenants Victoria.