



Run-down rentals, your rights as a tenant

SA NEWS

More international students saying they're being taken advantage of with their rent by landlords

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The valuable foreign student sector has become rich pickings for dodgy landlords and property managers who are taking advantage of

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legal advice and assistance for those who can't afford it — said a rising number of international students were coming forward saying they'd been taken advantage of with their rent.

“We receive a significant number of inquiries from students who are unfamiliar with their rights and obligations regarding rental properties,” Mr Boundy said.

“In some cases, tenants from overseas are being taken advantage of by landlords.”

The state's foreign student sector now pumps more than \$1.5 billion into the local economy each year, and is now only second to wine as SA's largest export market.

Fuelling this is a number of student accommodation buildings, usually offering cheaper accommodation, being built in the Adelaide CBD.

Students now make up almost a quarter of the CBD's population, the vast majority from overseas.

But a July report from the Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute said this growth of the international student population has “opened up new opportunities for exploitation by investors, particularly in the studio and room-rental segments”.

The report also said international students were increasingly being scammed, especially via false advertising.

“Unlike many other countries, where universities provide a sizeable proportion of student housing, in Australia, students in the main compete for housing in the private rental market or rent accommodation managed by the private sector in partnership with universities,” the report said.



Legal Services Commission spokesman Chris Boundy



📷 the commission is getting “significant number of inquiries from students who are unfamiliar with their rights and obligations regarding rental properties.” Picture: Thinkstock

Karyn Kent, CEO of StudyAdelaide, which markets the city to international students, said in many circumstances students may not even share their rental issues.

“An Adelaide Student Housing website was launched last year to outline professionally managed student housing options for international students, which obviously provides the best protection for them,” she said. “But the challenge is always making students aware of it before they arrive in Adelaide, and often they rely on peer recommendations for housing options.

“We’ve developed a pre-departure flyer that we distribute to education agents overseas to pass on to students coming to Adelaide, and we also promote the website to agents.”

Originally published as [Dodgy landlords preying on unwary foreign students](#)

