



# Agencies for South West Accommodation Inc.

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14<sup>th</sup> January 2004

Residential Tenancy Database Working Party  
Consumer Policy Framework Unit  
Competition and Consumer Policy Division  
Department of the Treasury  
Langton Crescent  
Canberra ACT 2600



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Dear Sir or Madame,

Please accept this letter as an offer of support for the submission compiled by Tenants Advice Service (TAS) for the current Ministerial Council on Consumer Affairs Attorneys-General Standing Committee into the operation of Residential Tenancy Databases (RTD's). As a local service provider with membership to the WA Tenancy Network, Tenant Advocacy South West (TASW) has committed time, information and feedback from a Southwest regional perspective, into the effects database operators have on tenants in the community.

The experience of TASW and our client group demonstrates that significant disadvantage can be inflicted upon members of the community by the operators of database companies. I feel this has been accurately reflected in the TAS submission. For example, from a local perspective, the Bunbury Accommodation Service (BAS) provides anecdotal evidence in relation to the crisis accommodation service they operate for homeless or at risk of homelessness clients. BAS claims the cause of client's homelessness is often due to the inability to access accommodation while listed with a RTD. Thus, these members of the community are excluded from their right (Declaration of Human Rights) to housing without any regulated recourse or fair trial regarding the terms of listing.

TASW fully supports the recommendations put forward by TAS. In particular, we support that listings should only occur after a court order has been obtained as we feel this will minimise any unfair, inaccurate and vexatious listings. Regulation of the operation of RTD's is requested immediately, to ensure that fair and equitable access to housing is available.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call.

Yours sincerely

Kerri Powell  
Coordinator  
Tenant Advocacy (South West)