



## Top End Women's Legal Service Inc

### Media Release

**SUBJECT:** NT Rental Law Reform

**FROM:** Top End Women's Legal Service

**DATE:** 2 October 2017

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**On the occasion of International Tenants Day, the Top End Women's Legal Service (TEWLS) announces support for reform of the *Residential Tenancies Act (NT) (RTA)*.**

Key issues for reform include regulation of the use of residential tenancy databases (RTD) in the Northern Territory, establishing a centralised bond holding scheme, and improved protections for tenants or occupiers who are victims of domestic and family violence.

TEWLS Managing Solicitor Vanessa Lethlean said, "reform of the RTA provides an opportunity to improve the experiences of both tenants and landlords and bring the Northern Territory into parity with other Australian jurisdictions".

Regulation of RTD should be specifically provided for in the RTA, as occurs in other Australian jurisdictions. The Northern Territory Civil and Administrative Tribunal (NTCAT) should hear and determine RTD disputes. The Northern Territory is the only Australian jurisdiction without a centralised bond holding scheme.

TEWLS is particularly concerned with improved protections under the RTA for tenants or occupiers who are victims of domestic and family violence. Vanessa Lethlean added, "Consultation with stakeholders and community groups is needed, leading to policy improvements and the development of relevant legislative provisions."

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