



Christine Fyffe M.P. Member for Evelyn



143 Main Street, Lilydale 3140
Tel: 9735 3208 Fax: 9735 3697
Email: christine.fyffe@parliament.vic.gov.au

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Brumby's Housing Crisis Puts Rental Squeeze on Yarra Ranges

Families in the Yarra Ranges are battling a crippling shortage of vacant and affordable rental properties, Liberal member for Evelyn Christine Fyffe said today.

"The housing situation is so bad that singles and families are desperately bidding for limited rental properties which have become as rare as hen's teeth," Mrs Fyffe said.

"Many prospective renters are now forced into auction type situations paying far more than the advertised rental price just to secure a home," Mrs Fyffe said.

The March Quarter 2010 Rental Report shows:

The median rent for a two-bedroom flat is now \$235 up 8.05% on last year
The median rent for a three bedroom flat is now \$330 up 10.00% on last year
The median rent for a four bedroom house is now \$370 up 15.63% on last year

In the Yarra Ranges 88% of private rental homes are now unaffordable for low income families.

"Shelter is one of our most basic needs. Without a home we lack stability, certainty and a place to take refuge. In this day and age with a government that is taking record amounts of taxes, fees and fines from citizens we should not be seeing people in this position," Mrs Fyffe said.

"The number of people on the public housing waiting list increased by 1,013 in the March quarter to 39,794 families. This is a telltale sign that the current Minister for Housing has failed to deliver affordable housing," Mrs Fyffe said.

"Long waiting periods for public housing, a shortage of affordable private rentals, unsafe rooming houses and under-funded housing support services are symptoms of 11 years of neglect under the current State Government," Mrs Fyffe said.

Media: Ruth Barendse – 9735 3208