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Residential Tenancies Review  
Consumer and Business Services  
GPO Box 1719  
Adelaide, SA 5001

**RE: Modernising SA's renting laws**

To whom it may concern,

By way of introduction, Kidsafe SA is the leading independent, not-for-profit organisation dedicated to the prevention of unintentional death and serious injury to South Australian children aged from 0 – 15 years. Whilst the number of childhood deaths and serious injuries have reduced significantly over the years, injury still remains one of the leading causes of death for South Australian children. More children die from injury than from cancer, asthma and infectious diseases combined.

We are writing in response to Consumer and Business Service's request for feedback on the review of the Residential Tenancies Act – Modernising SA's renting laws. Of interest to Kidsafe SA is Item 7 of the discussion paper - *Safety modifications and minor changes*. Kidsafe SA strongly support the amendment of the RTA to prevent the unreasonable refusal of safety modifications and minor changes including the installation of wall anchors, child safety gates, childproof latches, etc.

Children's curiosity and lack of awareness of the danger places them at increased risk of death and serious injury from TV and furniture tip overs. Approximately 22 children under the age of 9 have died in Australia since 2001 from toppling furniture or televisions.

As stated in the discussion paper, such changes have already been made in WA and Vic to allow for tenants to make safety modification in their homes. These important changes came following the death of 21-month-old Reef Kite who was killed by a falling chest of drawers at his family's rental home in WA in 2015. An inquest heard the furniture had not been secured to the wall because permission was not granted. The circumstances around Reef's death are devastating and entirely preventable had such laws been in place at that time. The safety of children must be the priority now that a precedent has been set.

Please consider the weight of this decision – we look forward to seeing this important change made.

If you wish to speak to us further, please contact me via the details below.

Kind regards,

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