

TENANT CHECK

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Submissions
Standing Committee
Residential Tenancies Amendment Bill 2011

Tenant Check submission.

Tenant Check has operated a website database on bad tenants for more than 11 years. Our service covers New Zealand and Australia and is used by rental property owners who can both list and check on tenants through our website.

Tenant Check firmly believes that bad tenants who fail to pay their rent or willfully destroy property must be exposed, and that bad tenants should not to be afforded any anonymity. Tenant Check also believes that rental property investors should have the right to protection from bad tenants.

Tenant Check has always carefully monitored and guarded the information contained within our files. During the 11 years that we have operated the service there has not been one complaint made against Tenant Check by a tenant, or any instance of misappropriation of data. All tenants have automatic right to request information on whether or not they are listed with us. We provide the tenant with a report on their status within 24 hours, and at no cost to the tenant. If they are listed, we provide in our report the full details of the listing, and the contact details for the property owner who made the listing.

Tenant Check agrees to the new bill and we are confident that we meet all of the legislation under the new bill, with one exception. We dislike the time period for the storage of data on a tenant. We feel that 3 years is not a sufficiently long enough period. Currently we retain the data for 4 years which is the same period used by credit bureaus. All data held on a tenant is destroyed from our system after 4 years.

Yours sincerely
Vaughan Gill