



Majority of Australian tenants are living in rental stress

Rent.com.au survey reveals Aussie renters are struggling to make ends meet

24 APRIL 2017: The vast majority of Australian tenants say they are paying more than a third of their weekly income in rent, a new Rent.com.au survey has found.

The Rent.com.au Rental Affordability Survey of more than 2000 renters across Australia in April revealed that 53 per cent of tenants reported spending one-third to a half of their weekly income on rent. Rental stress occurs when a person pays more than a third of their income on rent.

More worrying is that, according to the survey, 30 per cent of tenants are experiencing extreme rental stress by paying more than half of their weekly income on rent. Some tenants (23 per cent) said they had previously been late in paying rent due to financial strain.

One participant in the Rental Affordability Survey, Stefanie, from Redfern, NSW, works full-time as a legal secretary and spends more than a third on her income on rent.

“I moved from Perth to Sydney last year for work and the rent is ridiculous, particularly up here in Sydney where everything is more expensive. It’s so terrible I have had to have a discussion with my employer about trying to meet all my financial obligations,” she said.

The Rent.com.au Rental Affordability Survey also found that:

- 60 per cent of tenants thought their rent was overpriced for the property / area they lived in, while 36 per cent thought their rent was fair and 4 per cent considered it a bargain.
- 59 per cent of respondents said they would move house if their rent was raised at the end of their current lease, while 31 per cent said they would try to negotiate but would likely accept an increase, and 10 per cent said they would accept an increase without question as “rents are expected to rise every year”.
- The majority of respondents (70 per cent) said they were renting because they were unable to afford a house, while a growing minority (13 per cent) said they were happy renting and not interested in owning property.

**Interviews with case studies and Rent.com.au CEO Greg Bader are available on request
Contact Daniel Paproth on 0421 858 982 or daniel.paproth@mcpartners.com.au**

About Rent.com.au

Rent.com.au is Australia's number one website dedicated to renters and a leading advocate for the country's growing number of rental tenants. With a suite of services dedicated solely to rental properties, Rent.com.au helps renters, agents and landlords find the right fit.

Rental Affordability Survey key findings

What percentage of your weekly income goes towards rent?

Less than one third of my weekly income - 17%
More than one third to a half of my weekly income - 53%
More than half of my weekly income - 30%

How would you rate the amount of rent you are paying?

It's a bargain, I pay less than expected - 4%
It's about right, I pay a fair price - 36%
It's overpriced, I pay way too much - 60%

What most accurately describes your current situation?

I'm renting because it's the only option I can afford – 70%
I'm happy renting and not considering buying - 13%
I'm renting while saving for a house deposit – 10%
I'm renting while investing elsewhere - 7%

Which statement best describes your situation?

I am expecting my landlord to increase my rent with the lease renewal - 28%
I'm not expecting an increase with my lease renewal - 30%
I'm not really sure - 42%

If your landlord increased your rent at the end of your lease, how would you react?

Accept the increase, rents are expected to rise every year - 10%
Negotiate but probably will accept, I love my place and moving is inconvenient - 31%
Reject the raise and move if had to - 59%

Sample quote from survey participant (more available on request)

“The rental prices in NSW are out of control, and no-one seems to care or do anything about it. It's quite ridiculous. Trying to save a deposit for a house is out of the question. Rent costs more than house repayments. How does that even make sense to anyone?” - Grant, NSW (40-55 years old)

For more information or to organise an interview please contact:

Daniel Paproth
Account Manager
Media & Capital Partners
daniel.paproth@mcpartners.com.au
0421 858 982