

**Submission**

**No 13**

## **INQUIRY INTO INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ACCOMMODATION IN NEW SOUTH WALES**

**Name:** Mr John Kenny

**Date Received:** 6/10/2011

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*Partially Confidential*

John & Christine Kenny

5<sup>th</sup> October 2011

The Committee Manager,  
Social Policy Committee,  
Parliament House,  
Macquarie Street  
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Inquiry into International Student Accommodation in NSW

Dear Committee,

My wife and I wish to advise the committee of our experiences living in Marsfield where a large number of foreign students are living and sharing our neighbourhood.

We live in [REDACTED] and there are many family homes that have been converted to boarding houses to house young foreign students. Most of these homes are housing up to 10 people in converted rooms and garages without the proper council building requirements and in many cases without an approved Tenancy Lease. The reason we know this is from our attendance at public meetings and Council meetings where the landlords have stated that they were not aware that Tenancy Leases were required by law.

It is very obvious that these places are over crowded because of the excess garbage, large numbers of vehicles parked in the streets and the unmown lawns and edges.

The homes are generally run down with rusting gutters and lack of paintwork.

We run a lawn mowing business in the area and some of our clients are the students who live in these places. In most cases the students are paying for the lawns to be mowed out of their own money. We have asked if the landlord reimburses them and in nearly all cases they say no that it is their responsibility to keep the gardens tidy and mowed.


In other cases the landlord does not want the edges cut, only the lawn mowed for a very cheap price. They will not weed the gardens which become overgrown with weeds and grass and look disgraceful.

As a result the suburb of Marsfield is becoming a derelict town of overflowing garbage, unmown lawns and rundown properties. This is destroying a once beautiful suburb.

This submission is to let you know, as a resident and owner of a Marsfield home we are looking to your Government to implement appropriate laws which will close down these illegal Boarding Houses and restrict the size and number of people allowed to

live in residential homes and to give back powers to the local council to enforce the building codes and close down the illegal ones.

Yours faithfully

  
John & Christine Kenny

