



**REGARDING THE ONGOING CLASS ACTION AGAINST THE VICTORIAN LABOR GOVERNMENT BY PUBLIC HOUSING RESIDENTS.**

**PETITION TO SUPPORT MR BARRY BERIH AND TO LET THE STATE GOVERNMENT KNOW THAT THEY SHOULD NOT BE THREATENING TO PURSUE LEGAL COSTS AGAINST A PUBLIC TENANT ON A LOW INCOME.**

Barry Berih is a public tenant, who in conjunction with his legal team, initiated proceedings against the Labor State Government and its agency Homes Victoria regarding their plan to demolish three Public Housing tower blocks, on the grounds of jurisdictional error, lack of due process and the Human Rights Charter.

**The final outcome of the case will have important implications concerning Victorian ALP's plan to demolish a total of 44 Public Housing tower-blocks.**

The case which was heard in April 2024 was dismissed by Justice Richards on the grounds that government policies are not 'justiciable' which means that review of such decisions is beyond the scope of the law-courts.

However Judge Richards did not think the case, as it stood, accurately represented all the underlying issues, and she gave Barry Berih's legal team permission to reformulate their argument and return the matter to the Supreme Court. The date for this hearing is on 28 and 29 October 2024.

**Homes Victoria's barrister has stated that the government intends to claim legal costs from Barry Berih, the lead public tenant - a fact that has shocked the plaintiff's legal council.**

People on pensions and low incomes are vulnerable enough to abuses of power without being intimidated by governments. They should be able to seek justice and the protection of the courts without being deterred by the fear of severe financial retribution.

Additionally, we consider it unreasonable for a government to seek costs against citizens using the public courts on matters of public interest, and this case is very much a matter of public interest.

We see this tactic as an attempt to intimidate and deter Mr Berih and any other public tenants from taking similar actions in future. It is an unconscionable act by the Victorian Labor Government.

Please sign this petition. Let the government know that their decision to pursue Supreme Court costs against a public tenant with a disability, cuts across deeply held Australian community values of fair play and justice for all.

