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Renters air their frustrations

The biggest frustrations for renters have been revealed in new research from lender, HomeStart Finance.

Topping the list of frustrations was not being able to make changes to the house, such as painting walls or hanging pictures, with almost 50 per cent of respondents nominating this as their number one objection.

The number two gripe, at 33 per cent, was the fact that they knew they would have to move house again soon.

Almost a quarter of respondents said not being allowed pets was the biggest annoyance, and 16 per cent felt it was the fact that their landlord was a nightmare.

HomeStart CEO John Oliver said the frustrations highlighted were very common reasons why many young Australians dream of owning their own home.

“Not being able to own a dog or make small changes to the house, as well as the inconvenience of dealing with your landlord’s decisions, are all common frustrations when renting,” he said.

“As a tenant your landlord controls what happens to the property. They may unexpectedly decide to sell or move into the property once your lease ends, meaning you’re on the move again.”

Despite the frustrations, data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics shows that fewer first homebuyers are making it into home ownership. In the 12 months from October 2013 to September 2014, the number of homes purchased by first homebuyers was 7421, compared with 6193 between October 2014 and September 2015.

“The figures highlight the dilemma that many young people are facing - paying rent is impacting on their ability to save a substantial deposit or money to meet the upfront costs of buying a home,” Mr Oliver said.

“Fortunately, there are some positives for homebuyers in South Australia. The SA market has remained steady for a number of years and prices are much lower than in the eastern states,” he said.

“Sydney has experienced house price growth of more than 16% in the last 12 months, Melbourne 10%, while Adelaide sits at just over 4%.”

Mr Oliver said South Australian homebuyers also have access to many initiatives that aren’t available in other states, such as the First Home Owners Grant, and low deposit options, including some at 3% offered by HomeStart.

HomeStart makes home ownership a reality for more South Australians in more ways. We are a statutory authority that reports to the Minister for Housing and Urban Development. We were created in 1989 and since then have helped over 66,000 households into home ownership.