



Housing for the Aged Action Group

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MEDIA RELEASE

DISABLED MAN GAINS 'NO BENEFIT' FROM HOUSING MOTHER, COURT SAYS

Snezana Janjic, a Dandenong pensioner, stands to be evicted from her son's home following a Supreme Court decision that it isn't in his interests to house his mother.

The Senior Master's Office at the Supreme Court manages tens of millions of dollars for Victorians who've received compensation payouts but are legally unable to control their own money, including minors and the disabled. In 2006, Dusan Janjic was badly injured in a car accident that left him with a serious brain injury. As a result he was awarded over \$3 million in compensation, money that is now managed by the Senior Master.

Prior to his accident, Dusan had taken out a loan to buy a home for himself, his mother, and his brother Stevan. Once he was unable to make his own decisions, however, the Senior Master chose not to service his mortgage. Explaining the decision, the Senior Master's Office wrote that "Dusan is unlikely to ever return home, and his family have been residing in the property rent free for some time. He will derive no benefit from the mortgage being discharged." Even though Dusan had chosen to provide that rent-free accommodation for his family, the Senior Master decided he'd be better off if his mortgage defaulted.

National Australia Bank, the mortgagee, has now commenced eviction proceedings against Snezana and Stevan. A VCAT hearing on March 7 will decide whether the family are evicted immediately or have more time to find alternative housing. Snezana visits her son in hospital every day, and beyond becoming homeless, the family fears losing the home that reminds them of their best times with Dusan. "What happened to my son was a tragedy," said Snezana. "I can't believe the Court wants to make it worse by evicting us from his house."

Shane McGrath, a housing support worker at Home At Last who is assisting the family said, "If I was in an accident, I would expect that decisions I'd already made to support my loved ones would be respected. Most Victorians would be horrified to realise that if they were incapacitated, the Senior Master could ignore their decisions and leave their family on the street."

For more information contact Shane McGrath – Housing Support Worker, Home at Last – 0449 650 612

Home at Last is funded by the Victorian Government to provide information and support to older Victorians at risk of homelessness.