



Media release 23 February 2017

Victorian Government responds to urgent need for social housing with a \$1 billion social housing growth fund

Today the Victorian Government [announced](#) a new [\\$1 billion fund for social housing](#) that will deliver around \$70 million annually of subsidy to support growth in public and community housing.

Over the next five years, the fund will deliver housing that will support around 2,200 households.

Other announcements include a guarantee mechanism and a \$100 million fund to reduce the cost of community housing borrowing for new property developments.

“The Government has clearly heard, and responded to, our repeated call for action to address the crisis of affordability of housing for low income households,” says Kate Colvin, Acting CEO, Council to Homeless Persons.

“Placing these resources into a growth fund to generate a flow of subsidies in perpetuity will deliver urgently needed growth and certainty. For too long, social housing funding has waxed and waned, preventing social housing developers from being able to plan ahead to develop a pipeline of new housing.”

“As new public and community housing becomes available, people unable to afford private rental will increasingly have an affordable option, preventing them becoming homeless, or enabling them to find a quicker pathway out of homelessness.

“Victoria has an absolute crisis of rental affordability for low income households that has developed over decades, which is driving increased rates of homelessness.

“Directly investing in housing to be targeted to low income households is what the Victorian Government needed to do to reduce homelessness, and they have done it.

“It is now time for the Federal Government to join this response and play their part in achieving the immediate growth of 30,000 social housing properties identified as urgent by Infrastructure Victoria.”