



## **Federal Government needs to plan to grow social housing in housing ministers meeting**

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Australia's peak body for homelessness services is asking the Federal Government to deliver a plan for growth in social housing when it meets with state and territory housing ministers in Adelaide tomorrow.

'Homelessness services are responding to an avalanche of homelessness with an umbrella, when what is needed is thousands of proper roofs to put over people's heads. Homelessness Australia Chairperson Jenny Smith said that while the Federal Government delivered welcome security of funding for vital homelessness, family violence and housing programs in the budget, the additional investment needed to end homelessness was missing.

'There are over 100,000 Australians who are homeless each night and more than 200,000 on public housing waiting lists. There are many more in housing crisis or stuck in unsafe situations. If we want real fairness, opportunity and security then we need more housing that people on low incomes can afford, and we need it quickly.'

The Federal Government's current plan for housing, outlined in the Budget, included no extra resources to subsidise housing for the lowest income households. This means any new social housing created is likely to be for households that can afford higher rents – not those on the lowest incomes at most risk of homelessness.

Homelessness Australia released a policy blueprint prior to the budget that had growth in social housing front and centre. The key areas identified for action included: developing a new National Homelessness and Affordable Housing Strategy; streamlining access to support; investing in 'Housing First' and 'Rapid Re-housing' approaches; Strengthening prevention and early intervention; creating new short, medium and permanent housing options; reducing the over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people experiencing homelessness; and better measuring funding outcomes.

[Click here for full the Homelessness Australia position paper.](#)

'The most frustrating thing is that we already know the answers to Australia's homelessness and housing affordability crisis. The solutions are common sense, but we lack the political will to make them happen.

'People need access to a safe, appropriate and affordable place to call home, with support for some to re-establish themselves after a crisis. With these solutions we can end homelessness.'

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