

ANTI-POVERTY NETWORK SOUTH AUSTRALIA



For Immediate Release

MEDIA RELEASE

August 1, 2022

People Who Have Been Homeless, Low-Income Tenants, Gather To Demand Action On Our Housing Emergency

What: People who are or have been homeless, low-income tenants, and allies will gather outside at Parliament to call for action on SA's housing emergency, and speak to politicians and media

When, Where: Tuesday August 2, 11am, Parliament, North Terrace

As part of Homelessness Week, Anti-Poverty Network SA is convening its '**Housing Emergency**' public action outside the steps of Parliament. We will be inviting politicians and media to hear from those most directly and brutally affected by this crisis, and calling for dramatic policy change.

We face an unprecedented predicament:

- Over 7,000 homeless people.
- 17,000 people on the public housing waiting list.
- Rents increased by over 9 percent last year.
- Less than 1 percent of rentals are affordable for people on Centrelink payments.

We are calling for immediate, drastic action:

- A freeze on private rents increases, to allow tenants to catch their breath after years of massive rises.
- A ban on rent evictions during the current cost-of-living crisis.
- Strengthened rights for tenants, including ending 'no-fault' evictions, and allowing renters to keep pets.
- A substantial expansion of public housing: thousands of extra public homes are needed.
- A vacancy tax on the tens of thousands of empty private houses.

"While the new State Government has committed to building an extra 475 public homes over 4 years, with 17,000 people on the public housing waiting list-list, and over 7,000 people experiencing homelessness, this commitment falls massively short of what is needed.

With rents skyrocketing, we need a freeze on rent increases, to allow struggling low-income workers and people on Centrelink payments some desperately-needed relief and stability, after years of massive rises.

We also need urgent measures to protect renters, like a ban on evictions during this current cost-of-living crisis – like we had during COVID – and an end to ‘no fault’ evictions, that allow tenants to be evicted on vindictive, fickle, or arbitrary grounds.

There could be some additional support for small landlords who suffer hardship because of these measures but this is a crisis, and the Government must act”, said Anti-Poverty Network SA spokesperson Pas Forgione.

Further Info: 0434 045 805 or 0401 380 782 or info@apnsa.org.