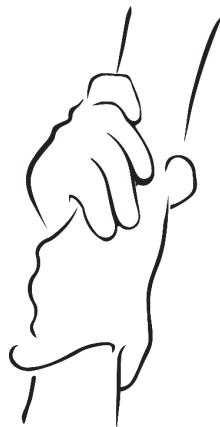


# ANTI-POVERTY NETWORK SOUTH AUSTRALIA



## MEDIA RELEASE

### Rally – It's Time To Fix The Housing Emergency

#### 1 Year Into The Malinauskas Government, The Need For Urgent Action On Skyrocketing Rents Has Never Been Greater

##### What: 'Fix The Housing Emergency' Rally

- Renters speaking publicly about their experiences
- Banners and signs
- Giant mock '1 Year Of Inaction On Rising Rents' "birthday cake"

When: Sunday March 19, 11:30am

Where: Parliament, North Terrace

*For Immediate Release*

With rents continuing to skyrocket, renters and supporters will be rallying at Parliament on Sunday March 19 – the 1-year anniversary of the Malinauskas government – to call for urgent action on the housing emergency.

It has never been more expensive and stressful to be a renter. People renting, especially on low incomes, face a nightmare: rents rose 9 percent last year, and less than 10 percent of advertised rentals are less than \$400 a week; a vacancy rate of 0.2 percent; weak legal protections; over 17,000 people on the public housing waiting list (with over 3,000 on Category 1).

*"This is a crisis, but neither level of government is prepared to do what it truly takes to protect renters from growing hardship. After 1 year in office, the Malinauskas government's announcements have been only minor policy tweaks and 'baby steps', with nothing to control the huge rent rises that have caused devastation.*

*In an emergency, minor tweaks and 'baby steps' will not do. We need the Malinauskas government to show courage and leadership, including by halting skyrocketing rent rises", Anti-Poverty Network SA spokesperson, Duncan Bainbridge, said.*

Anti-Poverty Network SA is calling for:

- An emergency rent-freeze, to allow renters to catch their breath after years of massive rent rises that have outstripped increases to people's incomes.
- A vacancy tax to address the 86,000 empty houses in SA: we cannot afford to have any empty houses, during an emergency.
- 584 new public homes by 2026 will barely make a dent into the unprecedented level of community need: we need many thousands of new public homes, funded through taxation of developers and

banks, as well as the scrapping of the Stage 3 Tax Cuts; and we need to ensure that every current public home in the state is able to house people.

- Strengthened protections for renters, including on evictions and lease non-renewals, and better standards of energy-efficiency, heating, and cooling.
- A raise to JobSeeker and other Centrelink payments, as part of the May Federal Budget.

The rally will kick-off a week of action, which will include a mass doorknocking and letterboxing session in Elizabeth South, one SA's most rent-stressed suburbs, afterwards; a community BBQ; and renters and supporters visiting their Member of Parliament.

**Further Info:** Call Duncan Bainbridge on 0434 045 805, David Winderlich on 0401 380 782, or Pas Forgione on 0402 681 352; or e-mail [info@apnsa.org](mailto:info@apnsa.org).