

ANTI-POVERTY NETWORK SOUTH AUSTRALIA



MEDIA RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

Latest CPI Data Reveals Highest Rent Increases In 35 Years – Time For Governments To Freeze Rents

The release of this week's latest CPI (Consumer Price Index) has revealed the largest quarterly rent increase – a 2.5% rise – in 35 years. **Anti-Poverty Network SA once again urges the state government to act, by implementing a temporary, two-year rent-freeze during this current crisis.**

Anti-Poverty Network SA spokesperson Brendan Folwell said: *"It is time that the governments recognise their role in the economy, and intervene directly in the market to protect renters from unlimited rent rises. We are calling for immediate action to institute a rent-freeze.*

Recently, the Malinauskas government announced it will ban no-cause evictions, meaning landlords will be required to give an approved reason for evicting a renter, or choosing not to renew a lease. The government must build on this announcement. If renters can still be evicted, because they cannot afford the rent, then we still have a fundamentally cruel rental system.

Our rental affordability crisis demonstrates the failure of our housing market, which, through lucrative tax breaks and subsidies, has created a never-ending boom that means enormous wealth for investors, but enormous hardship for those simply wanting to keep a roof over their head.

Alongside rent-controls, we call for a massive, historic investment in public housing, especially high-quality, high-density, public housing, located near services and infrastructure.

This week's record rent rise is just another nail in the coffin of the argument that markets will self-regulate to create the best outcome for the community. Housing should never have been a commodity or an investment. Housing is a human right.", Mr. Folwell said.

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