

ANTI-POVERTY NETWORK SOUTH AUSTRALIA



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For Immediate Release

MEDIA RELEASE

'Invest In Public Housing' – Homelessness Week Rally Outside Empty CBD Social Housing

What: Renters, Public Housing Tenants, speaking about their experiences;
banners and signs

When: Sunday August 13, 2pm

Where: 430-434 Morphett Street, Adelaide

Anti-Poverty Network SA invites people affected by the housing crisis to a National Homelessness Week action, in front of one of the city's most prominent blocks of empty former social housing.

"We wish to celebrate the achievements of public housing, and mourn the tragedy of its loss. The Morphett Street towers that have long been empty are a glaring example of the failures of past and current statements to build enough public housing stock to meet community need.

In SA alone, according to the 2021 census, over 7,000 are homeless, an increase of 19.3%, since the 2016 census. There are over 86,000 vacant private homes in SA, and closer to 1 million, nationwide.

We have over 17,000 South Australians on the public housing waitlist, and governments over the last 20 years have sold-off over 20,000 public homes. And there are over 1,000 empty public homes. According to analysis by the Everybody's Home campaign, SA has a shortfall of 32,000 social homes.

This will be the first year of a net increase in public housing stock in decades, but the Malinauskas government is only just beginning the construction of just over 500 public homes (and cancelling the planned sale of another 500 homes). It is nowhere near enough.

In a housing emergency, we cannot afford to have any empty homes, private or a public home. And in a housing emergency, we cannot afford 'baby steps'. We need urgent action, including the construction of thousands of new public homes, and an emergency rent-freeze, to stop unlimited, skyrocketing rent rises", Anti-Poverty Network SA spokesperson Michael Petrilli said.

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