

ANTI-POVERTY NETWORK SOUTH AUSTRALIA



MEDIA RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

Where Is The Action, Premier? In A Housing Emergency, 500 Public Homes Is Not Enough!!

Homelessness Week Action Outside Premier's Office Calls For Urgent Action On Empty Homes, Skyrocketing Rents

Community members directly affected by the housing emergency will be rallying outside the **Premier's Electorate Office (488 Port Road, Welland)** on **Friday August 9 (12pm)**, as part of Homelessness Week.

Anti-Poverty Network SA spokesperson Samantha Skinner said: *"2.5 years into the Malinauskas government, we are sick and tired of baby steps on the housing emergency.*

This week, the state government will hit 500 'affordable' homes built, but these new builds are drops in the ocean that will fail to keep up with community need, or population growth.

With 15,000 people on the public housing waiting list, 3,000 on Category 1, and over 6,000 homeless, several hundred new public homes will barely touch the edges. Indeed, research from UNSW says we have a population of 39,000 South Australians whose housing needs are unmet.[1]

*While the State government cannot build thousands of homes, overnight, they **must raise their level of ambition**, to meet the unprecedented levels of need – and there are other things that they can do quickly.*

*The State Government have **allowed thousands of empty homes across the state to sit vacant for years**, homes that could house people, and they have **allowed rents to keep skyrocketing**, with brutal impacts on people's health and wellbeing.*

Houses should not be allowed to stay empty in an emergency, rents should not be allowed to increase at twice the rate of inflation.[2]

The State Government must act swiftly, by implementing a vacancy tax on long-term empty homes, and a temporary rent freeze, to help renters catch their breath after years of massive rent rises."

Further Info: Call David Winderlich on 0401 380 782, Duncan Bainbridge on 0434 045 805, or Brendan Folwell on 0428 741 601 or e-mail info@apnsa.org.

[1]

<https://apo.org.au/sites/default/files/resource-files/2022-11/apo-nid320820.pdf>

[2]

<https://www.corelogic.com.au/news-research/news/2024/rent-growth-picked-up-in-the-start-of-2024,-taking-rents-to-new-record-highs>

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