

ANTI-POVERTY NETWORK SOUTH AUSTRALIA



MEDIA RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

Fast Track Housing Trust Maintenance Recommendations!

Anti Poverty Network calls for Review Recommendations to increase the
Housing Trust Maintenance Budget

The South Australian Housing Trust Maintenance Review has been handed down.

The Anti-Poverty Network SA believes some recommendations must be fast-tracked, while the overall recommendations fall short of what would deliver high-quality maintenance to public housing.

The Anti-Poverty Network SA supports a key recommendation to increase the Housing Trust maintenance budget.

The budget is currently too small to ensure quality work is done quickly.

Additionally, an over \$400 million maintenance backlog remains.

We need an investment to address the backlog and start to proactively handle maintenance and upgrade requests.

Anti-Poverty Network spokesperson David Deeks said “It’s not good enough that we have a housing backlog. Some public housing has rightly been described as being in a decrepit state, and complaints about maintenance have been skyrocketing.”

They added; “A safe and healthy home must be the right of all South Australians.”

The announcement from the State Government of \$37.1 million to get more vacant houses ready to be tenanted is also welcome, however, the government must ensure this is not money being taken out of other Housing Trust budgets, nor achieved through asset sales or cuts to other essential services.

The review recommendations most fall short regarding the model of delivery.

The South Australian Government should not merely aim to improve communication between contractors, the Housing Trust, and tenants, as well as pay market rates for work completed, as important as this is.

They should go a step further and begin the insourcing of public housing maintenance, starting with the head contract roles and then employing tradespeople directly for some of the most common maintenance issues.

The Housing Trust should be reinvested in to become a public builder and maintainer of homes.

Maintenance issues going unaddressed leave older buildings in poor shape and cost the government millions of dollars extra.

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