

ANTI-POVERTY NETWORK SOUTH AUSTRALIA



MEDIA RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

We Needed A Public Housing Budget, Not A 'Law And Order' Budget

The Malinauskas Government's final State Budget before the 2026 State Election could have given us huge investments rebuilding our public housing stock – instead, we got a right-wing, populist, 'law and order' Budget, that will not make anyone safer.

Anti-Poverty Network SA spokesperson Brendan Folwell said: *"After 3 years of power, rents are still soaring, and the public housing waiting list is still enormous, 14,000 applicants. People. The Malinauskas Government is barely building enough public housing to meet population growth, let alone community needs.*

But it dresses up its tokenistic commitments – several hundred new public homes, with the number of new builds shrinking in future years – as historic achievements.

We stand for the basic rights of every person to secure, affordable shelter, and believe that no one should be without adequate resources for sustaining and building a life of safety, meaning, and happiness.

We need at least 350 new public homes every year, simply to meet population growth, according to analysis by SACOSS (South Australian Council of Social Service), but the truth is, even that will barely make a dent into our waiting list.

We know it will take both Federal and State money, to build the large-scale, high-quality public housing we need across Adelaide, and regional SA, but last night's State Budget was a missed opportunity for those devastated by our unaffordable, unforgiving housing market.

Finally, while we are glad to see the cuts to the price of a student MetroCard, when so many South Australians are struggling to put food on the table and keep a roof over their head, we ask, why on earth would we not pass those same cuts to public transport fares to other concessioners, such as job-seekers?", Mr. Folwell said.

To speak to Anti-Poverty Network SA spokespeople, and for State Budget reactions from low-income people, contact Pas Forgione, on 0402 681 352, or at info@apnsa.org.

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