

ANTI-POVERTY NETWORK SOUTH AUSTRALIA



MEDIA RELEASE

Thursday August 7, 2025

For Immediate Release

Citizens Rally Outside Housing Minister's Office For National Homelessness Week

We Need Action On Empty Homes, Thousands Of Extra Public Homes

When: TODAY, Thursday August 7; speeches from 12pm-1pm

Where: Office of Housing Minister Nick Champion, 68B/600 Main North Road, Smithfield

Media Opportunities: People who have experienced homelessness; banners, signs, tents, and other props; Anti-Poverty Network SA spokespeople

It's National Homelessness Week and the Anti-Poverty Network SA is calling for South Australia's Housing Minister Nick Champion to honour his duty of care and protect people from homelessness. Obtaining affordable housing in South Australia has never been harder: high prices in a weakly regulated rental market conspire with the scarcity of public housing to create a perfect storm. As rental prices soar, so do demands on homelessness services and support from already stretched service providers.

Over 18,000 South Australians access homelessness services each year and over 14,000 are waiting anxiously to be offered placement in public housing. As a timely reminder of the deepening crisis, members of the grassroots, volunteer-led Anti-Poverty Network SA and its allies are gathering outside Minister Nick Champion's office on Thursday to advocate for the welfare of low-income and homeless people.

Anti-Poverty Network SA spokesperson Samantha Skinner said: *"We are standing here together, chest-deep in a housing and homelessness crisis. In desperate times like this, we need governments to act with urgency. Short and long-term solutions are needed now, and providing affordable, secure housing must be the top priority. Baby-step reforms aren't good enough when in crisis – we need governments to act boldly now with new policies and investment to keep South Australians housed."*

It's Housing Minister Champion's responsibility to protect people from being driven into life-threatening poverty and homelessness. As an entirely volunteer-run organisation of anti-poverty advocates, we have direct lived experience in this area, know the solutions, and will remind the Minister of both until affirmative action is taken."

We are calling for the State Government to:

- Commit to building thousands of new public homes over the long-term – after 2026, the State Government will not even be building enough public housing to match population growth

- Implement a vacancy tax on the 86,000 empty homes in SA – empty homes are an extreme luxury, during a housing and homelessness emergency
- Introduce a temporary rent-freeze, to allow anxious renters to catch their breath after years of massive rent rises

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