

ANTI-POVERTY NETWORK SOUTH AUSTRALIA



MEDIA RELEASE

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Build More Public Housing: Anti-Poverty Network's Message To Senate Inquiry

This morning, Anti-Poverty Network SA will speak to the Senate Inquiry on Intergenerational Housing Inequity, and tell the Senate Committee why we cannot fix the housing crisis without building more public housing.

Anti-Poverty Network SA spokesperson Samantha Skinner said: *"Despite governments across the country claiming to act, the crisis remains deep and entrenched. Rents are still soaring; public housing waiting lists are still huge; and homelessness services are still overwhelmed."*

"For too long, governments have treated housing as a get-rich-quick scheme, rather than a fundamental right, locking-out millions of people from housing stability. Without a massive expansion of public housing, stronger protection for renters, and reducing the number of private homes needlessly kept empty, more people will be pushed into housing crisis and homelessness."

Anti-Poverty Network SA is calling for the Senate Committee to recommend:

- A long-term investment to deliver at least 940,000 new public homes over the next 20 years
- Federal Government to coordinate nationwide rent-controls across the country
- Federal Government to coordinate measures across the country to reduce the number of vacant homes, including vacancy taxes and targeted compulsory-acquisition at market-value of persistently-vacant dwellings
- A substantial increase to income support payments, to above the Henderson Poverty-Line, so that job-seekers, students, carers, pensioners, and others can afford the essentials, including housing

Available For Media Interviews: Anti-Poverty Network SA Campaigns Co-Coordinator, Pas Forgione and Samantha Skinner; Anti-Poverty Network SA members who are experiencing housing crisis

Quick Facts:

- [SA has almost 14,000 people on the public housing waiting list](#), and after next year, we will not be building enough public housing to meet population growth, let alone tackle community need.
- [The latest Anglicare Rental Affordability Snapshot](#) tells us that only 5 rentals, out of 1,990 SA rentals surveyed, were affordable for people receiving income support – less than 1%.
- SA rents have risen by [52%](#) since April 2020

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