



Homelessness NSW



15 December 2017

The Hon. Gladys Berejiklian MP
Premier of New South Wales
GPO Box 5341
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Dear Premier

**\$2 BILLION CAN PROVIDE HOMES AND SUPPORT
FOR THOUSANDS OF VULNERABLE PEOPLE**

We represent peak housing and homelessness organisations and are writing to you regarding the NSW Government's recent announcement of over \$2 billion of public investment into rebuilding sporting stadiums.

Upon your elevation to the position of Premier you stated that the issue of housing affordability was "the biggest issue people have across the state" and we welcomed your commitment to address housing affordability as a priority for the NSW Government. In addition, reducing youth homelessness and increasing the proportion of young people successfully moving into long term accommodation is also one of the Premier's 12 Priorities.

To date the Government has focused on measures to increase housing affordability for first home buyers. However homelessness and rental affordability and rental insecurity for low income households are currently at a crisis level;

- there are 60,000 households on the NSW Social Housing Register
- the wait time for any form of social housing in most Sydney areas is at least 10 years
- the Anglicare 2017 Rental Snapshot found only 1% of private rentals are affordable for people on low incomes across the greater Sydney region
- the latest AIHW data shows the number of people accessing homelessness services has increased by 43% since 2013-14, and services are supporting 30% more clients than the system is funded for

- 12% rise in the last 12 months in clients seeking homelessness services due to family and domestic violence;
- 2 in 5 clients did not receive crisis or other accommodation despite requesting it; and
- 1% increase in young people accessing homelessness services in NSW, whereas nationally this has declined.

The current level of Government investment in social and affordable housing is insufficient to address the over 130,000 gap in much needed housing for the vulnerable and lower income households in NSW. \$2 billion could be used to directly fund;

- approximately 5,000 new homes for low-income households and working families on low incomes¹;
- help more homeless people;
- assist women and children escaping domestic violence;
- support and safeguard the rights of the increasing number of renters in the private rental market.

There is nothing more important than a secure home and \$2 billion can make a profound difference to the lives of many. We strongly urge the Government to invest the community's money towards housing and support for the most vulnerable in our community.

We are happy to provide you with more information on housing support and services. If we can be of assistance please contact Karen Walsh, CEO Shelter NSW on 0413 432 718 or email, Karen@sheltersnsw.org.au.

Yours sincerely



Karen Walsh
Chief Executive Officer
Shelter NSW



Katherine McKernan
Chief Executive Officer
Homeless NSW



Julie Foreman
Executive Officer
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Magnus Linder
Executive Officer
Churches Housing Inc



Tracey McLeod Howe
Chief Executive Officer
NSW Council of Social Services



Zoe Robinson
CEO
Yfoundations

1. In the report "The cost of increasing social and affordable housing in New South Wales", modelling by Sphere in 2014 assumed that the average development cost for a dwelling to be \$220,000 for the building component and \$166,000 for the land component.