



Helping churches provide affordable housing.

# Newsletter

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Summer 2018-19

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## A Minute with Magnus

Things have been hotting up in housing advocacy as well as the weather. After a great turnout (150) at our Parramatta 'Everybody Needs a Home' Forum, in partnership with the Sydney Alliance, Vinnies, Uniting, and the CRMC, we followed-up with attendance and a question and plea for action at the next council meeting, only to see the councillors actually pass their affordable housing policy after deferring it twice before...



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## Save the Date



**Save the Date: Housing and Energy Assembly**  
**Sydney Town Hall**  
**Thursday 14 March 2019**  
**6pm for 7pm start, concluding at 8:30pm**

2019, NSW will see one, likely two, elections. For civil society, this is an opportunity to call politicians to action on things that matter to our communities.

On 14 March 2019, the Sydney Alliance will return to Sydney Town Hall to pursue an agenda for affordable, secure housing, and clean and affordable energy. This action will bring together more than 2000 people from across formidable partners:

- The Sydney Alliance, with its campaigns around housing and energy (Voices for Power)

- NSW Vinnies
- [Everybody's Home](#), the national campaign to fix Australia's housing system

An assembly like this is unique chance to experience the power of Sydney's civil society, and to stand for the kind of city and country that we want to live in. There will be incredible diversity, moving stories, concrete proposals and short, sharp contributions from elected officials, including commitments that can be measured post-election.

So, set this time aside in your diary for 2019, and start talking to your community about being part of the action. Online registrations are open now - click [here](#) to add your details and receive further info.

Sydney Alliance  
<http://www.sydneyalliance.org.au/>

Sydney Alliance · 4 Goulburn St, Level 2, Suite 209, Sydney, NSW 2000, Australia

## Parramatta forum gets results

In early November, 150 people crowded into Parramatta Mission's hall to meet and hear politicians from all three levels of government talk about their policies and actions on affordable housing.



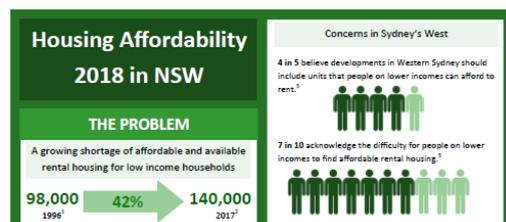
Also present was Dr Louise Crabtree, senior research fellow, Western Sydney University who delivered a very detailed analysis of the issues and possible solutions. [See her presentation here](#)

Less than three weeks later, Parramatta City Council – after years of dithering – approved an affordable rental housing policy which includes applying for SEPP 70 for greater powers to demand inclusion.

While Churches Housing is not saying that the forum directly led to this sudden change of heart, the Council's vote shows that citizen action and persistence do have good results.

## Housing Affordability 2018 in NSW

The shortfall of affordable rental housing has grown 42% from 98,000 too few



properties in 1996 to 140,000 in 2017. Churches Housing has compiled a 2-page infographic on the crisis. [Click here](#)

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## Housing (Un)affordability for Dummies

Housing affordability in Australia has worsened since 2008, particularly in Sydney and Melbourne where prices have increased fivefold – Sydney is now the second-least



affordable city in the world, behind Hong Kong, with Melbourne not far behind.

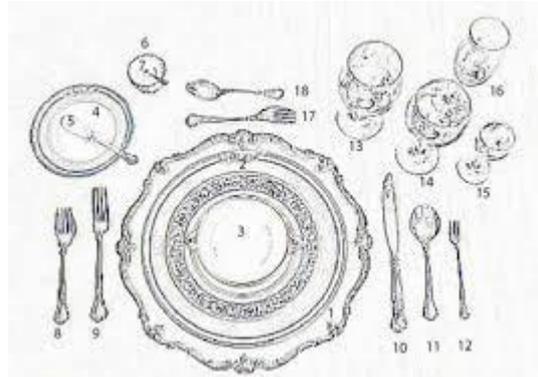
A series of connected forces is causing this crisis in affordability. The housing market is like a huge bowl of spaghetti ... a tangled, complicated mess. **Magnus Linder** and **Philippa Yelland** examine the causes in their first paper, [Housing \(Un\)affordability for Dummies](#), and possible solutions in a second paper, [Housing Solutions for Dummies](#).

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## Bidwell Uniting set table for action

Bidwell Uniting Church cares a lot about its neighbourhood, where housing prices have pushed rents to unreasonably high levels and placed a lot of stress on local families.

In preparation for running their own table talk (see below) on housing affordability, the Churches Housing CEO and Sydney Alliance



Housing Team Co-Chair Magnus Linder attended the church and spent some time sharing resources, ideas and running a mini-table talk for the leaders...

[More](#)

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## Bedsits and Partnerships

The Cecil is an old guesthouse in Katoomba, NSW, with a chequered history. Built in 1920, it recently lay derelict until Anglicare bought it in 2015 and renovated the sprawling building into a 26-room bedsit for the over-60s at risk of homelessness.

Not only does this wonderful building provide...



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## Housing prominent in City of Sydney's resident survey

Questions about housing, finances and food insecurity form an important part of the City of Sydney's resident survey.



Run every four years by the City of Sydney, the community wellbeing survey goes to more than 100,000 households in the council's LGA.

One question, for example, asks respondents if housing costs have forced them to unwillingly sacrifice spending on: food and groceries, heating, medical treatment, other household items, sports and recreation, arts and cultural activities, eating out, or education.

Housing issues also top the list of response options in another question that asks if households are thinking of moving out of the City of Sydney in the next one to five years for reasons of: home rental prices, home buying prices, or family (housing of schooling).

If you live in the City of Sydney LGA, then you are welcome to do the survey online at [cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/wellbeing](http://cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/wellbeing)

The deadline is Thursday 20 December 2018. The online survey is in English, Chinese, Thai, Indonesian and Korean.

Picture: community garden, City of Sydney

# More than 7,000 social housing dwellings needed annually for next 20 years in Sydney

To move people in the bottom-income quintile out of housing stress in Sydney, more than 7,000 social housing dwellings need to be built each year for the next two decades.

According to Dr Laurence Troy, 'Around a third of this is just to maintain the (existing) share, which we are not currently doing.'...

AHURI Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute

PEER REVIEWED



Social housing as infrastructure: an investment pathway

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# Young people need 10 fundamental changes, says YouthAction

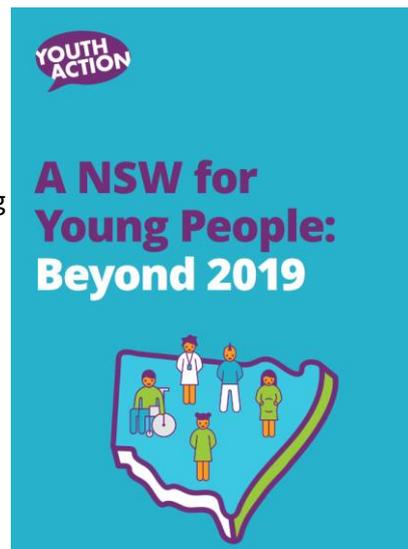
Young people in NSW need fundamental changes – including reliable housing – to improve their lives, according to YouthAction's just-published report.

*A NSW for Young People: Beyond 2019* calls for 'a safe and affordable place to call home' in its 10-point plan.

The report focusses on young people who are excluded and experience disadvantage.

It is based on consultation and research with thousands of young people, and hundreds of youth support services in recent years.

[Read Report](#)



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