



Homelessness NSW



18 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 VULNERABLE PEOPLE**

We represent peak housing and homelessness organisations and are writing to you regarding the NSW Government's announcement of funding to rebuild sporting stadiums at a cost of over \$2 billion.

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 one of the Premier's 12 Priorities.

We recognise that the Government has introduced a number of measures that seek to assist first home buyers. However it's very low and low-income households who are suffering the most as a result of Sydney's housing affordability crisis. Homelessness, rental affordability and rental insecurity for low income households are currently at a crisis level, as evidenced by;

- the 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 which found only 1% of private rentals are affordable for people on low incomes across the greater Sydney region
- the latest AIHW data that 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

- the 12% rise in the last 12 months in clients seeking homelessness services due to family and domestic violence;
- the fact that 2 in 5 clients did not receive crisis or other accommodation despite requesting it, and
- the 3% 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 shortage of over 100,000 affordable homes needed for 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 incomes<sup>1</sup>;
- help more homeless people in immediate need and to resettle in permanent homes;
- assist women and children escaping domestic violence;
- services and support for 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 urge the Government to invest the \$2 billion of public 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 that would assist those struggling to find a secure home. If we can be of assistance please contact Karen Walsh, CEO Shelter NSW on 0413 432 718 or email, [Karen@sheltersnsw.org.au](mailto:Karen@sheltersnsw.org.au).

Yours sincerely



Karen Walsh  
Chief Executive Officer  
Shelter NSW



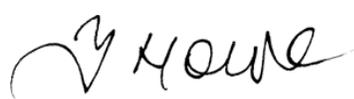
Katherine McKernan  
Chief Executive Officer  
Homeless NSW



Julie Foreman  
Executive Officer  
Tenants' Union of NSW



Magnus Linder  
Executive Officer  
Churches Housing Inc



Tracey McLeod Howe  
Chief Executive Officer  
NSW Council of Social Services



Zoe Robinson  
CEO  
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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.