

Media Release | National Shelter Response to Federal Budget 2022-2023

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National Housing Accord lays the foundations for future housing stability

The national peak body representing the housing interests of low-income households says housing announcement in today's first wellbeing budget highlights the importance of stable and secure housing on the health and wellbeing of people's lives.

Ms Emma Greenhalgh, National Shelter Chief Executive Officer, says "housing is critical to the wellbeing of individuals and communities, and a wellbeing budget must have housing as one of its central elements.

"We commend the Treasurer and the Minister for Housing for enhancements to the election promise to address the national housing crisis by bringing forward its announcement of the National Housing Accord. The Budget will almost double the delivery of social and affordable housing from 30,000 at the election earlier this year to 55,000.

"The announcements by the Government today provide the architecture to respond to the housing crisis in the longer term. Although today's announcement provides a long term plan to address the housing crisis, there is no immediate relief for the over 950,000 households experiencing housing stress right now.

"It is heartening to see leadership from the Federal Government to bring together key funding and delivery partners to solve the housing crisis that has gone on for too long in Australia. However, the Government must ensure that the 1 million homes that will be delivered will help those on the lowest incomes and those experiencing housing difficulties.

"Being able to secure housing that people can afford is vital to maintaining the health and wellbeing of individuals and communities. It is disappointing therefore that there has been no review or increase to Commonwealth Rent Assistance or income support payments, when we know housing is unaffordable right now.

"Addressing housing supply is a critical part of the equation but providing lower income households more money in their pockets so that they can afford to pay rent will make a considerable difference to their housing opportunities, and ultimately their health and wellbeing.

"While the Government has recognised that access to secure and affordable housing is a key element of good health and wellbeing for individuals and communities, tonight's 'wellbeing budget', only addresses the long-term problem, when we know that there are people struggling now who also need immediate relief.

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