

MEDIA RELEASE

Social housing urgent to tackle the homelessness crisis

Anglicare Australia has called for an urgent boost to social housing. The call follows the release of *Double Return*, a landmark study from the Everybody's Home campaign.

"People who are homeless – or at risk of homelessness – are at the forefront of this downturn. They should be at the forefront of the response," says Anglicare Australia Executive Director Kasy Chambers.

"This study shows that homelessness will grow by nine percent because of the Covid-19 recession. On top of that, one in four Australian families will be pushed into housing stress.

"It's clear that the recovery is far from over. We need urgent action to boost jobs and tackle homelessness," Ms Chambers said.

Ms Chambers said that social housing will boost the economy while tackling Australia's housing crisis.

"Even before the downturn, Australia had a shortfall of 400,000 social and affordable rentals across the country. Now thousands more people are being pushed into poverty and homelessness.

"Social housing will offer relief for people who are on the brink of homelessness. It also boosts GDP, and it creates construction jobs for the regions that need them most.

"This report shows that investing in social housing would make a serious dent in homelessness, turbocharge the economy by \$18.2 billion, and create 18,000 jobs.

"There is no time to waste. Social housing projects will bring more jobs than renovations, and they can get off the ground more quickly than roads or rail. Most importantly, they offer badly needed help to the people who need it.

"These projects are shovel-ready – and they're shovel-worthy.

"The Government says it wants a jobs-led recovery. It's not too late to put its money where its mouth is and fund social housing."

For media enquiries, please contact Maiy Azize on 0434 200 794.

Maiy Azize

Director of Media and Communications
ANGLICARE AUSTRALIA

1st Floor, 11 Edgar Street, Ainslie ACT 2602

T 02 6230 1775 | **M** 0434 200 794

P PO Box 4093 Ainslie ACT 2602

W www.anglicare.asn.au

Anglicare Australia staff acknowledge that we live and work on the country of the Ngunnawal People, and that their sovereignty was never ceded. We pay our respect to elders past, present and emerging.

