

23 Sept 2015

## Tasmania takes the lead in affordable housing

Shelter Tasmania, the State's peak body for housing and homelessness welcomes today's release of the Tasmanian Affordable Housing Strategy and the Action Plan 2015-2019.

"Affordable housing is fundamental to a healthy and productive community where everyone has the opportunity to thrive and contribute", Shelter Tas Executive Officer, Pattie Chugg said.

Shelter Tas congratulates the State Government on making affordable housing and homelessness a top priority. "It has been an extensive consultative process, involving stakeholders from throughout the business and community sector. Continued consultation and working together will be essential for the all-important implementation of the Action Plan," Ms Chugg said.

"We are pleased to see a long term vision to improve housing affordability and address homelessness, and a proposed increase of 941 new affordable homes. The Plan responds to identified need in the Tasmanian community. Options for accommodation and support for youth, who make up 25% of Tasmania's homeless population are especially welcome. Evidence and experience show that stable housing provides the necessary base for education and economic participation," Ms Chugg said.

Shelter Tas and our members have advocated that new supply of affordable housing is essential to meet current shortfall of appropriate affordable housing. "With 2759 people on the waiting list for social housing, a significant increase since last year, additional resources to increase the supply of affordable housing are needed urgently," Ms Chugg said.

The Action Plan includes 19 initiatives to kickstart additional affordable homes, and support those who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness. "Now we have the Action Plan, we welcome its implementation and look forward to seeing the positive difference it makes in the lives of many Tasmanians," Ms Chugg said. "With so many new initiatives, we and our members will continue to work with all stakeholders to ensure the Strategy achieves its results."

For more information, please contact  
Pattie Chugg  
Executive Officer, Shelter Tasmania  
0419 536 100  
eo@sheltertass.org.au  
www.sheltertass.org.au