

A win for affordable housing

Thursday 26th May, 2016

Shelter Tas, the State's peak body for housing and homelessness, welcomes the State Government's budget announcement of an additional \$60 million over the next three years to implement initiatives in the Affordable Housing Strategy and Action Plan.

"We are pleased to see the government responding to the housing needs of vulnerable Tasmanians", Shelter Tas Executive Officer, Pattie Chugg said.

"Tasmania is currently facing an affordable housing crisis, despite the myth of cheap housing prices in the State. We also know that over 50 % of those people accessing homelessness services cite housing affordability as the reason for seeking support, so this funding is most welcome", Ms Chugg said.

Shelter Tas welcomes the initiatives around accommodation for youth in the North West of the State and a residential care facility for elderly people at risk of homelessness.

"Our members who work with vulnerable people every day know the crucial role of long-term accommodation and support, and Shelter Tas has long recommended a Wintringham-style model, purpose built for older, vulnerable Tasmanians", Ms Chugg said.

Over one fifth of people over 65 are in housing stress and as Tasmania's population ages, an increasing number of older people are at risk of experiencing homelessness.

"It is great to see the State Government committing these new funds to this crucial area, as housing is the lynchpin of health and wellbeing", Ms Chugg said.

Evidence has shown that a clear way of reducing housing stress and shortage is to grow housing supply. Doubling the First Home Owners' Grant will provide an incentive for increased supply, which is another important initiative to help alleviate the shortfall in housing across Tasmania.

We look forward to ongoing consultation with both the sector and State government on the implementation of these new projects", Ms Chugg said.

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