



MEDIA RELEASE

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Peak Body Welcomes Growth in Community Housing

The announcement today of the second phase of Better Housing *Futures* has been welcomed by the peak body for the community housing sector in the State, Shelter Tasmania.

“We are pleased to see that Tasmania continues to lead the Nation in the expansion of community housing,” Shelter Tas’ Executive Officer Pattie Chugg said.

“The community housing sector has a long, established history in this State, and an excellent track-record of providing quality, long-term housing and supports for low-medium income tenants. With this transfer of around 4,000 tenancies, community housing will be able to play a central role in the provision of affordable housing in Tasmania.

“Community Housing is based on improving tenant participation, and we welcome the State Government’s decision to give tenants the choice of provider and the opportunity to move their lease to a community housing provider if they wish,” Ms Chugg said.

However, Shelter Tasmania cautioned that for community housing to remain viable, continue to grow and provide excellent housing and supports into the future, it will require adequate and sustained resourcing.

“A functional, healthy community housing sector is one with sufficient resources for active tenant engagement and for first-class training for its workforce,” Ms Chugg said.

Importantly, community housing providers must also be able to increase supply and build new affordable housing, to help alleviate the housing stress experienced by the 34% of low-income tenants who face unaffordable rent. Shelter Tasmania calls upon the Government to commit to ensuring an environment that encourages the development of new affordable homes.

“Community housing gives us the opportunity to build a diverse range of quality, affordable housing across a range of locations which will benefit those on low incomes, such as elderly people and people with a disability. A growing community housing sector will provide long-term housing options to tenants, and allow them to live sustainably and securely,” Ms Chugg said.

For further information contact Pattie Chugg, Executive Officer - 0419 536 100 or at eo@shelertas.org.au

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