

Retirement of Tasmania's public housing debt to the Australian Government

I support the call to waive Tasmania's housing debt. I have raised the matter personally with Prime Ministers Gillard, Rudd, Abbott, Turnbull and Morrison, challenged a series of federal governments in Question Time, and prosecuted the case in the media. If the Federal Government can waive South Australia's housing debt for a quick political fix, then they can do the same in Tasmania where people are sleeping on the streets due to a lack of social housing and half the money we receive from Canberra for social housing goes straight back in debt repayments.

A National Housing Strategy to deliver more affordable rental housing

Australia has suffered for far too long from a lack of direction and an almost complete lack of federal interest when it comes to affordable housing. Affordable housing policy must not be considered in a silo, but rather should be at the forefront of all policy areas and in particular health and infrastructure. To that end I support the call for a National Housing Strategy. I also support Shelter Tas's call for at least 10% of housing to be not-for-profit social housing.

Funding to end homelessness

I was pleased to be able to secure \$30 million from the Federal Government this year for over 130 social housing dwellings. While this will put a big dent in the social housing waiting list and help hundreds of people, there is still a lot more to be done. We need much greater investment from both the Federal and State Governments to provide for more crisis accommodation, more social housing, and more supported accommodation for people with specific needs. With the right political mindset and with decent politicians in Canberra, we can end homelessness by 2030.

Tax reform for housing

I support changes to negative gearing and the capital gains tax discount because they disproportionately favour investors over owner-occupiers. This would not only level the playing field for people trying to enter the property market, but also provide a much-needed boost to the Federal Budget to invest in affordable housing and ending homelessness. Such changes should be grandfathered to protect historic investment decisions.