

4 May 2019

Ms Pattie Chugg
Executive Officer
Shelter TAS
eo@shelertas.org.au

Dear Ms Chugg,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide the views of the Coalition on important issues facing your members. A response to your questions is attached.

This election will have real consequences for Australia's economy and our future.

Despite global headwinds, our economy is strong. This year, for the first time in more than a decade, the Government will deliver a Budget surplus.

A stronger economy means we can deliver on our plans to:

1. Create 1.25 million more jobs over the next five years.
2. Maintain budget surpluses and pay down debt.
3. Deliver tax relief to encourage and reward hard working Australians.
4. Guarantee increased investments for schools, hospitals and roads.
5. Keep Australians safe and our borders secure.

The alternative at this election is Mr Shorten. Labor's risky agenda includes billions of dollars of higher taxes – on retirees, housing, incomes, investments, family businesses, electricity and more.

Thank you for communicating our response to your members.

Yours sincerely,



Andrew Hirst
Federal Director

MORRISON GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO SHELTER TAS

The *National Housing and Homelessness Agreement (NHHA)*, which commenced on 1 July 2018, will improve accountability and transparency for housing and homelessness outcomes.

The Coalition has provided more than \$7.5 billion over five years, which includes \$620 million in dedicated, matched and indexed homelessness funding. This funding targets priority homelessness cohorts, which includes women and children escaping domestic violence, indigenous Australians and older Australians.

The Morrison Government has announced a number of proposals to make housing more affordable for all Australians, including:

- the First Home Super Saver Scheme to help Australians buy their first home;
- the \$1 billion National Housing Infrastructure Facility and the National Housing Finance and Investment Corporation which will help to unlock new housing supply including social housing;
- strengthening regulation of the community housing sector to support its capacity to grow;
- \$6 million to support the Homes for Homes initiative, which aims to raise funds for social and affordable housing;
- \$10 million over 10 years to develop social impact investments that help young people at risk of homelessness;
- releasing surplus Commonwealth land for housing and the Australian Government property register; and
- a variety of tax, superannuation and foreign investment changes aimed to help Australians meet their housing needs.

The Morrison Government continues to support those in need in the community by providing around \$4.5 billion each year in Commonwealth Rent Assistance to more than 1.3 million individuals and families.

In contrast, Labor's Housing Tax will make it harder for Australians to get into a first home. Labor's Housing Tax will put up rents which will make it harder for first home buyers to save for a deposit. Research by SQM found rents could rise as much as 22 per cent.

Regarding the retirement of Tasmania's public housing debt to the Australian Government, it is longstanding policy of both sides of government that housing loans provided to states need to be repaid.