

## Shelter Tas welcomes release of current short stay data

Friday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2020

Shelter Tas is the peak body for housing and homelessness in Tasmania.

“Today’s report shows 5487 short stay listings from around the State, with 2374 (43.3%) reported as being a principle place of residence. Shelter Tas is pleased to see the release of this first set of data. It is an important first step in helping the community to understand where short stay accommodation is concentrated across the State,” Shelter Tas CEO Pattie Chugg said.

“Good policy needs to be based on evidence. Many reports now show that Tasmanians have experienced an unprecedented surge in the private rental market. Vacancy rates in Hobart’s private rental market have fallen as low as 0.3% reflecting the chronic shortage of rental accommodation. We recognise that short stay visitor accommodation is not the only driver of our current shortage of rental properties, but it is a key factor that needs to be understood and carefully managed,” Ms Chugg said.

“We are pleased that local government will have access to more comprehensive data on the locations of short stay accommodation in their local communities and will be able to see how this may impact on housing for local Tasmanians. We know that there is a serious shortage of affordable rental housing across the State, while Hobart is the least affordable capital city in Australia based on the ratio of income to rents,” Ms Chugg said.

In addition, we would like to see the state government ensure that local governments or third parties are funded to ensure that the data is accurate, that it is easy for owners to comply and for regulators to check compliance,” Ms Chugg said.

“We are aware also that in many international jurisdictions a small levy is placed on short stay accommodation to contribute back to an affordable housing or homelessness fund. We would like to see Tasmania introduce such a positive initiative,” Ms Chugg said.

Shelter Tas would like to see a clear registration system for all short stay accommodation to ensure the comprehensive collection of all data. “To build on the knowledge from this first release, we would recommend that all properties should be registered. No platform should be able to list a property without a registration number, just as is best practice in other countries,” Ms Chugg said.

### For more information and comment, contact:

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