

## Building homes builds a healthy economy

Thursday 26 August 2021

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

Shelter Tas welcomes the Tasmanian Government's commitment to deliver on its election promises in today's State Budget announcement for 2021-22.

"Our submission to this year's State Budget Process emphasised that in a time of crisis, a secure home is paramount for all," Shelter Tas CEO, Pattie Chugg said.

"Ultimately, ensuring that all Tasmanians have the home they need is an investment in community wellbeing and health. When our borders re-open, successful management of the COVID-19 pandemic will depend on everyone having a safe and secure home, where they can self-isolate if needed. Safe homes for all Tasmanians will protect both individual and community health, and boost our economy. Homes will remain essential even when the pandemic has passed.

"The Shelter Tas budget recommendations, based on consultation with our members, included a call to increase the supply of social housing from the current level of 6.2% to 10% of all dwellings, and to include a Housing Impact Analysis in all relevant policies and decisions. While the State Government has not yet committed to the 10% target, we are pleased to see the \$2M investment in developing a comprehensive *Tasmanian Housing Strategy* for the whole Tasmanian community that was launched today. This *Strategy* will include planning for housing needs arising from tourism, employment and population growth. Shelter Tas and our members look forward to working with the State Government on this essential strategic response to current and emerging housing needs across the state," Ms Chugg said.

"Shelter Tas and our members are pleased to see the investment of \$615M into social housing and homelessness initiatives. We particularly welcome the \$2.1M ongoing funding for the Housing Assistance and Support Initiative (HASI) that supports Tasmanians living with mental illness, and \$11M to fund Safe Spaces for the coming year. The announcement of \$15.3M for innovative new youth housing and homelessness initiatives is vital to meet the needs of young people experiencing homelessness. The \$6M towards the two new \$20M supported accommodation facilities for older Tasmanians in the North and North West of the state will complement the excellent service provided by Wintringham in the South," Ms Chugg said.

"With costs in the Private Rental Market outstripping people's incomes, and a highly competitive rental market where many people across Tasmania are missing out, Shelter Tas supports the Government's increased investment in social housing. Building much needed social housing provides both an economic boost and a public good. This year, we have seen increasing demand for affordable homes, with the waiting list for social housing pass 4 000 applications, and 36 people a day being turned away from homelessness services. There is every sign that housing stress and

