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MEDIA RELEASE

Salvation Army report a reminder action is needed on housing

Today's Salvation Army's report showing Sydney families are living on as little as \$17 a day after paying housing expenses is a stark reminder of why we need urgent action on housing affordability, the state's peak not for profit housing body said today.

NSW Federation of Housing Associations CEO, Wendy Hayhurst, said families and single people living in poverty were at the pointy end of the state's housing affordability crisis - with the high cost of rent leaving little for food, medical or school costs.

"Housing affordability is not about just real estate pages. We need to widen the conversation beyond home ownership to how we can provide safe and affordable homes to rent for people whose income may never allow them to buy their own property," Ms Hayhurst said.

"The Salvation Army's National Economic and Social Impact Survey shows that 68% of their clients are in extreme housing stress, paying almost two thirds of their income on accommodation.

"With so little left over, it's a battle to make sure your kids have three meals a day, it's a battle to make sure they have what they need for school, and it's almost impossible to find the money for simple things like the clothes or any internet connection that you need for a job interview.

"It's a terrible, vicious cycle that we need to work together to fix."

The Federation is supporting a new national #votehome campaign, which is urging all parties to address housing affordability and commit to ending the housing crisis by 2025.

The campaign is asking parties to support an Affordable Housing Growth Fund to help fund more affordable housing for people locked out of home ownership.

It is also calling for a national plan to end homelessness by 2025 by addressing the key drivers of homelessness, finding ways to rapidly rehouse people who are homeless and providing support for people to get back on their feet when they are in crisis.

"We're also hoping governments will work with not-for-profit community housing providers to develop a 10 year plan to address the shortfall of suitable housing for people with disability when the National Disability Insurance Scheme rolls out from July," Ms Hayhurst said.

The Salvation Army Report is at:

<http://www.salvationarmy.org.au/en/Who-We-Are/Publications-reports-submissions/Reports--Submissions/Latest-Reports/Economic-and-Social-Impact-Survey-2016/>

Find out more about #votehome at https://www.change.org/o/vote_home_2

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