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MEDIA RELEASE

NSW FHA congratulates community housing providers on new funding

The NSW Federation of Housing Associations today congratulated community housing providers granted funds through the NSW Government's \$1 billion Social and Affordable Housing Fund.

Federation CEO Wendy Hayhurst said Compass Housing, SGCH, St Vincent de Paul, Uniting and BaptistCare had proven track records in investing in well designed housing and services for people in need in their local communities.

Ms Hayhurst said the total funds announced today by the government would provide 2,200 new homes over four years

Modelling by the University of Sydney for the Federation shows NSW needs 100,000 social and affordable homes by 2036 just to maintain current waiting lists.

"This first phase of funding through the SAHF is a good start to meeting the shortfall of safe, secure, affordable homes for people who need it so desperately," Ms Hayhurst said.

"Waiting times are already more than decade long in almost every Sydney suburb and many regional areas, and not for profit housing providers experiencing daily demand for low cost housing from workers locked out of the private rental market by soaring rents.

"Today the Commonwealth Government has announced it will support an independent finance body to encourage large scale investment in community housing – but it will need state governments to support a pipeline of projects to make it work.

"This first stage of the SAHF is a good start but it needs to be expanded as part of a whole of government approach by the NSW Government to housing that includes planning reforms, incentives at a local government level, and affordable housing targets.

"At the very least we need to see action on planning reform to mandate affordable housing quotas on new or up-zoned land and make government land available for affordable housing at low or no cost," she said.

"And we need to see the Government treat affordable housing as a priority like any other infrastructure that is critical to making a city the size of Sydney liveable for everyone, no matter how much they earn."

Ms Hayhurst said she looked forward to hearing more detail about the next phase of the Social and Affordable Housing Fund.

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