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MEDIA RELEASE

Four in five call for government action on housing affordability

Four in five Australians believe governments need to intervene to make housing more affordable, according to new figures released today.

An Essential Poll for the NSW Federation of Housing Associations shows that 78 per cent of Australians believe that the governments must step in to make housing more affordable.

Some 79 per cent of people support mandated affordable housing in every housing development, and 75 per cent of people agreed that social housing is a vital safety net for people who fall on hard times.

Federation CEO Wendy Hayhurst said housing affordability was one of the top five issues people believe need to be addressed by governments over the next 12 months.

“88 per cent of people polled said safe secure housing is essential to community well being,” Ms Hayhurst said.

“We know we can expect another 1.6 million people in Sydney by 2036 but while the NSW Government is to be commended for investing in new transport projects and growth hubs such as Westmead, Parramatta and Homebush, we still have no clear plan for where we’re going to house the workers who will make these places hum.

“The price of Sydney’s booming economy is that our house prices and rents are continuing to soar. Home ownership is now beyond any worker on a lower income or average wage.

“For our city to continue to thrive economically, we need to make decisions now that will ensure everyone has somewhere affordable to live close to where they work. We’re talking about childcare workers, nurses, teachers, cleaners, and construction workers.

“Government leadership and action is urgently required. Simply increasing supply isn’t sufficient. We need action through Inclusionary zoning, affordable housing targets and incentives to trigger institutional investment into affordable rental housing.

“It is great the NSW Government has announced that there will be 10,000 new homes at Olympic Park. Even better would have been a commitment to a 30 percent being affordable rental housing, including shared and low cost ownership.

“And we need to make those decisions now in other areas such as the Sydenham/Bankstown Corridor, Waterloo and the Parramatta Road before the opportunity is gone.”

The Essential Poll also found that 63 per cent of people say they would be willing to have less growth in value of their own home if it means their children will be able to afford theirs.

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