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## MEDIA RELEASE

### Political agreement needed to alleviate NSW housing crisis

Peak housing and homelessness bodies in NSW today called for bipartisan agreement on a plan to fix the state's housing crisis.

The NSW Federation of Housing Associations and Homelessness NSW have welcomed Labor's Affordable Homes in Sydney Plan commitment to introducing affordable housing targets on government owned land and in new private developments.

Both peaks said they would be looking closely at how the Government would address the issue in the lead up to the NSW Budget.

The Federation's Deborah Georgiou said it was encouraging Labor had recognised the urgent need to provide more affordable housing for people not able afford to buy or rent privately.

"It is good to see a plan that recognises there are people at many different places on the housing spectrum who all need support in different ways – from first home buyers who need a pathway into to the market to people who need to rent at below market rent prices," she said.

"Importantly Labor has recognised there is a chronic shortage of affordable housing for low and moderate income earners, particularly for people who don't qualify for social housing but don't earn enough to rent in Sydney's soaring private rental market.

"NSW needs 100,000 new social and affordable homes by 2036 just to keep pace with demand. Increasing supply of all types of housing is urgently needed. Community housing and the private sector can work together to meet this gap."

Homelessness NSW CEO Katherine McKernan said homelessness was often forgotten in the debate around housing affordability.

"Homelessness services can't work in isolation. All parties need to recognise that homelessness is intrinsically caught up in a dysfunctional housing market – where high house prices and rents have a knock on effect along the line to people who are the most vulnerable," Ms McKernan said.

"A safe home is a basic right that every child or person in Australia should have access to– no matter how much they earn.

"If we're going to make any dent in the housing issue we need all levels of government need to work together with a genuine commitment to bipartisan support for sensible solutions that go beyond a four or three year election cycle."

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