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HILDA highlights urgent need for more social and affordable housing to beat housing stress

The 2018 HILDA report highlights the urgent need for more social and affordable housing in NSW the state's peak community housing body said today.

Acting CHIA NSW CEO Deborah Georgiou said the report showed housing stress is at an all time high in Sydney, with skyrocketing housing prices and rents hitting low income earners, single parents and older renters the hardest.

People are usually considered in housing stress if housing costs make up 30% of a household's income and that places the household in the lowest 40% of income distribution

"HILDA shows that single parents and older people are doing it particularly tough," Ms Georgiou said.

"There are very, very few affordable rental options in Sydney for people surviving on a minimum wage or government support.

"Yes real estate prices in Sydney have dropped slightly, but whether a house is 12 or 11 times the average income is immaterial when you're a renter struggling just to keep a roof over your head and your income hasn't gone up.

"It's putting pressure on people, and it's putting pressure on our social housing safety net, which just doesn't have enough homes to support people who need urgent relief."

Modelling for CHIA NSW shows that NSW needs 12,000 new social and affordable homes a year to keep pace with current demand and expected population growth.

CHIA NSW is calling for planning reforms in NSW to encourage more investment in not-for-profit social and affordable housing in local communities across NSW.

"Between 2012 and 2020, 18 of our largest community housing providers will have delivered \$1 billion in new projects in 34 local government areas, with capacity to deliver much more," Ms Georgiou said.

"The NSW Government has some programs in place to deliver more social and affordable homes on the ground but we need a real commitment at all levels of government to secure planning reforms and more funding."

Media contact: Jenny Stokes 0478 504 280