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Community housing industry launches plan for housing NSW

The state's not-for-profit community housing peak body, CHIA NSW, today launched its 2019 election platform *Housing our Community*, which sets out eight key actions that the parties should take to address housing unaffordability in NSW.

CHIA NSW CEO Wendy Hayhurst said underinvestment in social housing for over a decade means that just one in every 100 homes built in NSW between 2006 and 2016 was social housing.

Ms Hayhurst said that fixing the housing system should be made the responsibility of one dedicated housing minister.

CHIA NSW is also calling for a 20 year housing strategy that spells out how much of what type of housing is needed across the state. This should be backed by an initial five-year funded delivery plan.

Other key actions include:

- An interim target of at least 5,000 additional social and affordable housing properties a year
- A capital fund to provide a predictable funding stream for the development of social and affordable housing
- A government land audit to identify sites suitable for housing with a target that at least 30% of the site will be designated for social and affordable housing
- Planning reforms to stimulate more social and affordable housing
- A negotiated program to transfer more public housing to the community housing sector
- A new Community Opportunities Program to provide support to community housing tenants to achieve their goals – be they living independently or gaining and retaining employment.

“Systemic under investment in social housing by successive governments at all levels means NSW now has a shortfall of almost 140,000 social housing properties,” Ms Hayhurst said.

“In NSW our population has grown by half a million people since 2011 and rents have increased by 27%, whilst wages for our lowest income earners increased by just five percent.

“As a result half of all low income households are in rental stress, about 60,000 households are on the social housing register and our homelessness rates are the highest in the country.

“The good news is, we can turn it around if all parties recognise the challenge and support CHIA NSW’s election actions to make sure everybody in NSW has a home.”

CHIA NSW 2019 NSW Election - Housing Our Community is at <http://communityhousing.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/CHIA-NSW-Election-Platform-final.pdf>

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