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Community housing industry calls for cross-cabinet approach to boosting affordable housing supply

NSW's not for profit community housing peak body, CHIA NSW, is urging new Ministers under the Berejiklian Government to prioritise building new social and affordable housing amid soaring rental stress across the state.

Premier Berejiklian's new cabinet sees management of the housing sector split between two portfolios, with Melinda Pavey as Minister for Water, Property and Housing under the Planning and Industry cluster and Gareth Ward overseeing social housing as Minister for Family and Community Services under the Stronger Communities cluster.

CHIA NSW chair John McKenna has urged the NSW Government to develop a comprehensive evidence-based housing strategy to boost affordable housing supply and guide cross-portfolio collaboration.

"Housing that people can afford is essential infrastructure and including it in the Planning and Industry cluster is a promising shift for the new state government," says Mr McKenna. "A co-operative and fully-funded housing strategy between Minister Pavey and Minister Ward will serve as a critical link between clusters."

"Minister Pavey's new portfolio presents an opportunity to leverage more investment into Aboriginal housing and to deliver a better range of housing solutions for Aboriginal communities and low-income households across NSW."

Recent modelling by the City Futures Research Centre found that Sydney needs almost 200,000 additional social and affordable homes by 2036.

And while the city remains the focus of housing debates, regional NSW fares little better, with over 117,000 additional social and affordable homes needed by 2036.

This will take years of sustained investment to fix, and Premier Berejiklian's new government must start now with a plan to deliver the housing that NSW needs.

"CHIA NSW looks forward to working with the new state government and with Minister's Pavey and Ward to ensure that everybody in NSW has a home they can afford."

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