

MEDIA RELEASE



Anglicare snapshot finds just two homes for Newstart recipients as industry renews calls for community housing

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The Anglicare Rental Affordability Snapshot released today shows the urgent need for more social and affordable housing across NSW, the state's not for profit housing industry said today, with just two rental listings in Australia suitable for single Newstart recipients.

The 2019 snapshot shows that once again minimum wage earners and people on government support struggle to find anything affordable to rent in Sydney or almost all regional NSW areas, while two homes in the Riverina and Orange regions were the only rental listings in Australia that a single person on Newstart could afford.

CHIA NSW Chair, John McKenna said the 2019 snapshot shows that despite lower house prices in parts of Sydney, many low income renters are worse off than they were 12 months ago.

"After 10 years of the Anglicare Rental Affordability Snapshot the private rental market is still failing hundreds of thousands of households in Sydney and across NSW," Mr McKenna said.

"Unfortunately investment in social and affordable housing has fallen a long way behind rent increases and population growth, which means many households struggling in the private market have nowhere else to go.

"Waiting lists for social housing alone are up to a decade long in almost every part of Sydney and the Illawarra.

“We also know there’s a shortfall of almost 140,000 social housing properties across the state right now, and we’ll need more than 300,000 social and affordable homes by 2036 to close the current gap and keep up with population growth.”

Mr McKenna said community housing providers across NSW could start meeting that demand with the right planning reforms, financial support and a commitment from all levels of government.

“We need more affordable rental options for households struggling everywhere in our state, particularly people with a disability, aged pensioners, job seekers and families struggling to keep a roof over their heads on a minimum wage,” Mr McKenna said.

“We really need the State Government to develop a comprehensive Housing Strategy for the whole of NSW that spells out exactly when, where and how we can deliver the social and affordable housing our local communities need.”

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