



South Australian peak body for housing

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **The Voiceless Speak**

### **Vulnerable South Australians talk about housing in new video, parliamentarians urged to listen**

Adelaide, South Australia — In October, 2012 attendees of the Shelter SA Homeless Connect Expo, many of them vulnerable South Australians, recorded their housing needs. Shelter SA has released a video of these attendees that you can watch and share [here](#). The video targets state members of parliament in a bid to remind them of their responsibility to listen to the needs of the people who vote for them. The release of the video coincides with a cabinet reshuffle that sees the appointment the Member for West Torrens, Tom Koutsantonis, as the Minister for Housing and Urban Development.

“We would like to welcome Minister Koutsantonis and impress upon him the importance of completing the State Housing Strategy” said Shelter SA’s Executive Director Alice Clark. “The revised Strategy must be based on people’s needs, including the homeless and people living on low incomes, some of whom are represented in the Shelter SA video”.

Policies—including the State Housing Strategy—that govern South Australians often occupy a separate, political realm to people’s everyday lives. What is seldom recognised is how much policies structure and govern all of our lives. If policies are not based on people’s needs and wants they cannot be effective. Shelter SA’s emerging consumer network—*Shouting about Housing!*—creates a rare and important opportunity for the government to hear from and engage with citizens, and for citizens’ voices to be heard at the government level. To find out more about *Shouting about Housing!* visit our [website](#).

ABS data shows that homelessness in South Australia has increased since the 2006 Census and it is well known that housing affordability remains a significant problem. Shelter SA would like to see the State Housing Strategy completed in consultation with South Australian citizens to create positive change.

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**Shelter SA** is a peak housing organisation and advocates for improved housing outcomes for everyone, including those who are on low incomes and who are living with disadvantage. Access to affordable, appropriate and secure long-term housing is the key to overall social well-being, and is critical to improving health and education outcomes for everyone.