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National Shelter Call to Action

National Shelter needs your help to continue to work towards an Australia where everyone has access to an affordable place to call home. In just a few short weeks our Federal Government funding will end, but National Shelter has no intention of abandoning our work of building the evidence base for investment in affordable housing and being a strong voice for low-income and other vulnerable Australians in the housing system.

National Shelter's advocacy focus for the next two years will be on four key issues:

1. The reform of the Federation process – housing and homelessness because we must not allow the Federal Government to abandon its responsibility for affordable housing;
2. Taxation reform; because the tax system is the single biggest force impacting on the housing market in Australia;
3. Collection and dissemination of data related to housing consumers and policy reform to build and illustrate our evidence base; and
4. Housing as infrastructure, not welfare.

We already have significant commitments from Brisbane Housing Company, SGCH, Uniting Communities S.A., Jobs Australia, Vinnies National Council and others, so add your organisation or name to the list and watch our advocacy grow.

Join Us!

If you value the strong advocacy that National Shelter offers you can contribute to our program of work either by sponsoring a project or by contributing to our core business campaigns and advocacy, and/or becoming a National Shelter Member like Jobs Australia and the National Council of the Society of St Vincent de Paul.

To discuss your role in National Shelter's advocacy, please contact Adrian Pisarski on 0417 975 270 or email adrian.pisarski@shelter.org.au.

Planned projects

National Shelter has a number of projects in the pipeline. But without your assistance we either won't be able to complete these projects, or will only be able to complete them at a more basic level. The thread that runs through each of these projects is strengthening the evidence base and working with decision makers to ensure that the needs of vulnerable people in the housing system are addressed. Please help us be as strong as possible in these projects:



Illustrating the impact of inflated housing prices for States/Territories and the low cost rental market, looking for a better way forward: Price increases have been driven by a combination of Commonwealth tax incentives, poorly targeted and volatile State/Territory taxes and charges, underinvestment in new builds and poor policy planning. There is a lack of attention to the importance of affordable housing from the perspective of Australian citizens, especially those living on low incomes unable to access affordable housing in the market. States/Territories have been largely unable or unwilling to respond to the housing affordability crisis due to current revenue collection imbalances a situation which will deteriorate further if the Commonwealth steps away from its housing and homelessness responsibilities.

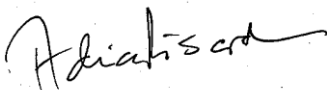
A National Rental Affordability Index will provide a unique data set specifically about rental affordability in every Australian capital city and will be expanded over time. We see the Index as providing opportunities to keep renters as well as home-buyers at the heart of our policy and advocacy work and raise the profile of the extent of rental stress in the community.

Broadening the campaign base for affordable housing through National Shelter's involvement in the development of an Affordable Housing Forum and other engagements to work with private sector peaks, unions, and agencies in housing and other sectors to build momentum and support to increase affordable housing supply in Australia.

A different arrangement for peaks to suit new circumstances: National Shelter understands that we need to ask ourselves and our stakeholders difficult questions about the structure of peak bodies in Australia, their financial viability over time, relevance to changing environments, their focus, reliance on government funding and their value to the housing sector. We are committed to ensuring peak body arrangements maintain their relevance to Australian citizens, the sector and the way organisations and people connect in the 21st Century.

I look forward to talking with you about these priorities and working ever more closely to ensure that Australia's housing system meets the needs of all our communities.

Yours faithfully



Adrian Pisarski

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National Shelter is the peak body for housing in Australia. Since 1976, National Shelter has conducted evidence-based advocacy and policy working towards our vision for every Australian to have an affordable place to call home. National Shelter's advocacy centres on the **housing system** as a whole because we are determined to move housing policy out of a welfare portfolio and into a dedicated housing area with appropriate policy and funding. We recognise that high prices – both in house purchase and private rental - are a symptom of structural market failure driven by policy distortions. Relevant policy settings include taxation at Commonwealth and State levels, insufficient planning systems and an underinvestment in new, affordable housing.

Donations to National Shelter Inc. via Community Sector Bank BSB 633000 - A/C 133353573