

Shelter SA is Shouting about Housing!

**To all South Australians! Shout a bit louder so that Government can hear you!
Where is our plan for affordable housing?**

The South Australian government released its draft Housing Strategy over a year ago in September 2011. Shelter SA, the peak body for housing, and 33 other organisations and individuals submitted responses to the Strategy but there is still no final plan for affordable housing in the State. Thousands of South Australians are living in housing stress and can't afford basic essentials like food or health care and homelessness services are overwhelmed by demand for assistance. It is a real concern that statistics tell us there are more and more children who don't have a safe place to sleep.

The Shelter SA submission to the Housing Strategy, available at www.sheltersa.asn.au was prepared in consultation with people living on low incomes who were younger, older, social housing tenants, private renters and home owners, Aboriginal, culturally and linguistically diverse, living with disability and experiencing homelessness. Shelter SA urges the State Government and Minister Pat Conlon to include the voices of ordinary South Australians in their plan.

There was also extensive use of the word 'community' in the Strategy and Dr. Alice Clark, Shelter SA Executive Director pointed out "when people talk about where they live, this is a word they simply don't use. The most important things about where people live are their safety, their health and well-being, freedom to live how they want and fulfilling their needs. Without a place to call home, people cannot 'reach their potential' as the State Government so eloquently put it. People need an affordable and safe place to call home **simply to live their lives** as this gentleman at the recent Homeless Connect expo told us..."



Dr. Clark said "all of the submissions to the SA Housing Strategy asked the Government to consider the special needs of minority groups of people who are living on low incomes and we are yet to see if citizen voices will be incorporated into the final plan".

Get involved and have your say about housing in South Australia by joining the Shelter SA **Shouting about Housing!** Network – find out how on our website

www.sheltersa.asn.au

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