



AROUND THE HOUSE

The newsletter of Shelter NSW ► Working for a fair and just housing system

Election supplement - Major announcements start to come

Two parties in this election have now announced policies to substantially increase social and affordable rental housing in NSW.

Since *Around the House* went to press, Premier Mike Baird and Family and Community Minister Gabrielle Upton committed to build additional social and affordable housing under a re-elected Baird Government.

The Premier's comment that: "We have listened to the community and know we need more social and affordable housing. ...", together with the announcement of "a dedicated social and affordable housing fund that aims to hit the \$1 billion mark...", is a significant policy breakthrough in this area of urgent housing need.

Following from that the Greens have now also committed to spend \$4.5 billion over four years to build 20,000 social and affordable homes over four years.

While the details are yet to be made public, the Council of Social Service of NSW (NCOSS) has agreed that if the Coalition is re-elected, it will work with the Government and Infrastructure Partnerships Australia to build the proposed \$1 billion fund.

Shelter NSW, in its *10 Key Issues* for the election calls for "a 'Social Housing Boost' to increase supply by at least 2,000 new properties a year for 10 years", and to "establish new ways to finance affordable-rental housing — by widening the purposes for which Restart NSW Fund moneys may be spent to include affordable housing".

Modelling commissioned by Shelter, shows that on some assumptions, \$1 billion of capital subsidy could support over 14,000 new affordable and social homes. The Premier's announcement could be a great start.

NSW has a shortfall of over 100,000 rental properties that are affordable and available to very low and low income households. This crisis is seeing people go hungry to pay the rent, relocate to areas that make employment far less likely, and is leading to homelessness for far too many.

The recent announcements by two parties in this election are a start to finally turning this around. Shelter NSW calls on all parties to similarly address the issue.

Now's the time for all Shelter supporters to keep the pressure on.

23 March, 2015

Labor joins in housing announcements

Since our last update both major parties have made their housing policy announcements, with Labor joining the Liberal Party and the Greens. Labor has announced a '\$300 million 10 point plan to address the housing affordability crisis'.

The plan stresses the need for a comprehensive approach to housing policy – a view Shelter endorses. Its plan covers issues from land release to shared equity. Like the Liberals and the Greens, the Labor plan includes an investment commitment (although a very much smaller one than the other parties) of \$100 million of interest free loans over 10 years to support community housing development projects. It also includes an extra \$40 million for homelessness.

Perhaps the most important aspect of the plan are the commitments to appoint a Minister for Housing, form a Premier's Council on Affordable Housing, and develop a comprehensive ten year plan for affordable housing across NSW.