

20 May 2024

The Secretariat
Housing and Homelessness Ministerial Council
Via HHMCSecretariat@dss.gov.au

Dear Ministers

National Agreement on Social Housing and Homelessness

We are writing to you about the proposed new National Agreement on Social Housing and Homelessness following the meeting of National Cabinet 10 May 2024.

We welcome a resolution to the agreement and the continuation of funding for a further five years, including rolling the Equal Remuneration Order (ERO) into the base funding. This reduces uncertainty in the sector and staff can focus on front line service delivery for those experiencing homelessness and housing insecurity with certainty for the next five years.

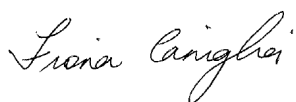
We also welcome the doubling of funding for homelessness services in the agreement by the Commonwealth, with matching funds to be provided by the states and territories. This is long overdue and will make a significant difference to homelessness services who are responding to overwhelming demand on their services. We applaud the expanded funding to the Northern Territory to respond to homelessness, which more than doubles the previous year's funding. This is a life changing investment for people in the Northern Territory experiencing homelessness. Understandably, NT Shelter have chosen not to sign this letter.

The remaining Shelter network is deeply concerned that there is no significant enhancement to the overall funding envelope of the agreement. The forward estimates in this week's Budget papers indicate an uplift of funding of under \$100 million per year, which we understand to be the inclusion of the ERO and indexation. We are also deeply concerned that the additional funding for homelessness services is not new funding from the Budget but a re-allocation of funds from within the agreement. This has the possibility of impacting on much needed repairs and maintenance of existing social housing.

The national agreement is foundational funding for the delivery of housing and homelessness between the Commonwealth and the States/Territories. While Australia remains in a housing and homelessness crisis, we urgently need to see a significant uplift in a re-negotiated agreement that includes new funding to increase homelessness services, as well further investment in housing.

In this housing and homelessness crisis we need bold action to address the scale of the need confronting our housing and homelessness services, and those who are experiencing homelessness and housing insecurity. We urge you at your meeting this Friday to re-consider the funding envelope of the revised agreement and provide new funding for the homelessness sector.

Yours sincerely



Fiona Caniglia
**Executive Director, Q
Shelter**



John Engeler
CEO, Shelter NSW



Travis Gilber
CEO, ACT Shelter



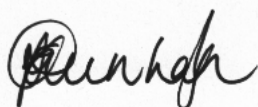
Pattie Chugg
CEO, ShelterTAS



Alice Clark
CEO, Shelter SA



Kath Snell
CEO, Shelter WA



Emma Greenhalgh
CEO National Shelter

Cc

Hon Julie Collins MP
Minister for Housing and Minister for Homelessness
Julie.Collins.MP@aph.gov.au

Hon Meaghan Scanlon MP
Queensland Minister for Housing, Local Government, and Planning
housing@ministerial.qld.gov.au

Hon Rose Jackson MLC
NSW Minister for Housing and Minister for Homelessness
office@jackson.minister.nsw.gov.au

Yvette Berry
ACT Minister for Housing and Suburban Development
berry@act.gov.au

Hon Harriet Shing MP
Vic Minister for Housing
Harriet.shing@parliament.vic.gov.au

Hon Nick Champion MP
SA Minister for Housing and Urban Development
MinisterChampion@sa.gov.au

Hon John Carey BA MLA
Minister for Housing and Homelessness
John.carey@mp.wa.gov.au

Felix Ellis MP
TAS Minister for Housing and Planning
felix.ellis@dpac.tas.gov.au