

Home Time.

Fix housing for young people

Thursday 23 May 2024

Hon Rose Jackson MLC
Minister for Housing, Minister for Homelessness
By email: office@jackson.minister.nsw.gov.au

Dear Minister Jackson,

Re: Upcoming Housing and Homelessness Ministerial Council Meeting

The Home Time Campaign has brought together over 120 organisations nationally to seek action at the next Housing and Homelessness Ministerial Council Meeting, which we understand is being rescheduled from this Friday. We are asking you to help ensure the Ministerial Council addresses the policy and funding settings that lock around 40,000 children and young people experiencing homelessness out of our housing system.

We want to acknowledge the work of your Government as well as the recent Federal Budget and its investment in homelessness services, the increase in Commonwealth Rent Assistance and the decision to allocate the \$1 billion National Housing Infrastructure Facility to young people experiencing homelessness and women and children escaping violence.

However, critical structural factors still exclude children and young people from accessing the housing and support they need. These include a lack of dedicated tenancies linked to longer-term support for young people aged 16-24 years, the significant rental gap for housing providers offering tenancies to people on youth payments, and the need for further targeted housing investment to create new youth housing.

We are seeking measures in the new National Agreement on Social Housing and Homelessness and the National Housing and Homelessness Plan to facilitate:

- 1. Making unaccompanied children and young people a priority needs group**
- 2. Establishing national, state and territory targets for dedicated tenancies for young people**
- 3. Ensuring support services are linked to tenancies for young people**
- 4. Addressing the rental gap for housing providers offering tenancies to people on youth payments**
- 5. Reporting on social housing allocations to young people nationally**

We also support the call for an increase in Youth Allowance to lift young people out of poverty.

Many children and young people who become homeless are forced to leave their homes due to domestic and family violence. Providing a pathway back into a safe home for this group of victim-survivors is a critical part of our national response to domestic and family violence. Creating and supporting this pathway is also the only way we will ever succeed in reducing overall homelessness over time.





If we fail to build a framework for reducing youth homelessness into the NASHH and National Housing and Homelessness Plan, we will see tens of thousands of children and young people without a home continue on a crash course with deep poverty, ongoing violence, and a lifetime of social and economic disadvantage.

Please let us know what action you were able to take at the Ministerial Council Meeting and we look forward to working with you in unlocking housing and hope for children and young people across Australia.

Yours sincerely,

Dom Rowe
Homelessness NSW

John Engeler
Shelter NSW

Trish Connolly
YFoundations

On behalf of full list of national signatories on next page



Supported by:

- Australian Council of Social Service
- Australian Youth Affairs Council
- Community Housing Industry Association
- Homelessness Australia
- Melbourne City Mission
- Brisbane Youth Services
- National Shelter
- The Salvation Army
- Foyer Foundation
- Anglicare Australia
- Australian Childhood Foundation
- Mission Australia
- YFoundations
- Anglicare Victoria
- Anglicare South Australia
- Anglicare Northern Territory
- Home Stretch Campaign
- Uniting Church in Australia
- YWCA Australia
- Kids Under Cover
- Property Industry Foundation
- Homelessness Queensland
- Council to Homeless Persons
- ACT Shelter
- Shelter South Australia
- Shelter Tasmania
- Shelter Western Australia
- Q Shelter
- ACT Council of Social Service
- Western Australian Council of Social Service
- Queensland Council of Social Service
- Victorian Council of Social Service
- Queensland Youth Housing Coalition
- CHIA Queensland
- CHIA South Australia
- CHIA Victoria
- CHIA Northern Territory
- Youth Affairs Council of Victoria
- Youth Affairs Council of WA
- Youth Coalition of the ACT
- Australian Lawyers for Human Rights
- Centre for Excellence in Child and Family Welfare
- Centre for Innovative Justice, RMIT University
- University of Tasmania
- Human Rights Law Centre
- Centre for Multicultural Youth
- cohealth
- Faith Housing Alliance
- Federation of Community Legal Centres
- Launch Housing
- MCM Housing
- Mental Health Victoria
- Mission Australia Housing
- My Foundations Youth Housing
- Neami National
- Orygen
- Safe and Equal
- Uniting NSW & ACT
- Anika Legal
- ARC Justice – Goulburn Valley Community Legal Centre
- ARC Justice - Housing Justice
- ARC Justice - Loddon Campaspe Community Legal Centre
- Drummond Street Services
- Hester Hornbrook Academy
- Homes Out West
- Hope Street Youth and Family Services
- Justice Connect
- Lighthouse Foundation
- MercyCare
- Metro Community Housing
- OneBridge
- Queerspace
- Roseberry QLD Youth and family services
- Safe Steps
- Sharehouse Youth Programs
- Southern Youth and Family Services
- Tenants Victoria
- Unison Housing
- WAYSS
- Westjustice
- Wombat Housing and Support Services
- Women's Property Initiatives
- Youth Off the Streets
- Youth Projects
- YouthLaw
- BridgeIt

See www.hometime.org.au/supporters for a full list of Home Time signatories.