

## Media Release

29<sup>th</sup> March 2022

National Shelter Response to Federal Budget 2022-2023

### **A missed opportunity to invest in the security of low-income Australians**

The national peak body representing the housing interest of low-income households says that the 2022/23 federal budget continues to ignore the needs of low-income and vulnerable Australians and again fails to invest in social and affordable housing.

Ms Emma Greenhalgh, Chief Executive Officer, said that ‘at a time of a national housing emergency, there is nothing on offer from the federal government to address the housing circumstances of households in greatest need’.

The housing measures in the budget this year include the continuation of the Home Builder Scheme, and the enhancement of the Home Guarantee Scheme, including the expansion of the scheme in regional areas, and changes to the First Home Super Saver Scheme.

‘We are concerned that the only focus in this budget is on measures that provide fuel to an already inflated market. We need a suite of responses to address this housing emergency, not just one response. The government has spent more in the past 12 months supporting people to renovate housing than on providing funding for people who urgently need housing’, Emma continued.

This year’s federal budget does not provide any new funding for social and affordable housing and does not match the enhanced contributions from state governments in recent years. We cannot find any recommended increase to Commonwealth Rent Assistance, which leaves low-income private rental households at the mercy of inflated rental markets. The tax offsets and one-off payments to households to assist with cost-of-living expenses are insufficient to the scale of the problem for households to meet their increasing costs.

The raising of the NHFIC liability cap by \$2billion to \$5.5billion will assist community housing providers deliver some more social and affordable housing. However, this is not a grant provided directly to community housing providers. Providers will still be required to source funding to building housing.

National Shelter continues to call for a national housing strategy with additional investment in social and affordable housing.

People tonight who are in housing distress or experiencing homelessness have been forgotten by this budget.

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