



Community Organisations Housing Alliance

3rd September 2010

Dear Prime Minister,

We write to provide you with an analysis of the major party policies in relation to housing affordability and to inform you of the establishment of the Community Organisations Housing Alliance which has recently come together because of our shared concern about housing affordability.

It was extremely disappointing that no major party thought housing affordability a significant issue during the campaign and yet it consistently rates highly in polling of issues affecting households.

Indeed the largest single payment any household makes is its mortgage or rent. Australia has some of most inflated house prices in the world and rents have been rising at least 3 times faster than the Consumer Price Index for the past 3-5 years.

Many of our least affordable housing markets are now in regions affected by resource extraction and our lowest income earners, often pensioners, veterans and people with disabilities, are the first and worst affected.

COHA believes we need to vigorously pursue an affordable housing agenda which links affordable housing with regional and urban development, with infrastructure, planning and tax reform.

We need to ensure multi party commitments to clear targets for ending homelessness, which was a key national priority for the government.

We also need to continue the welcome progress made by the outgoing government regardless of the make-up of the incoming one.

We are willing to make our members available for briefings on these issues and urge you to include considerations about affordable housing and homelessness in your current deliberations.

Sincerely

Adrian Pisarski

On Behalf of the COHA members