

11 May 2024

National Shelter welcomes National Cabinet announcements on housing and homelessness

National Shelter welcomes the announcement of a new National Agreement on Social Housing and Homelessness (NASHH) in Friday's National Cabinet meeting and the further funding commitments to housing and homelessness.

CEO Emma Greenhalgh said:

"We are pleased to see a resolution to the negotiations of the new national agreement, particularly the emphasis for homelessness. This means that the sector can focus on front line service delivery for those experiencing homelessness and housing insecurity with certainty for the next five years.

"The re-direction of the National Housing Infrastructure Facility (NHIF) to focus on young people, as well as women and children, and a shift to grant funding will have a significant impact by providing safe and affordable housing for those fleeing violence and at risk of homelessness. The focus on housing for young people has also meant the government has listened to the sector in its recent advocacy.

"The \$1billion for enabling infrastructure is also welcome. In a housing crisis that is across the spectrum and impacting on all cohorts we need to remove all impediments to the delivery of new housing in our communities.

"We are pleased to see the focus on requiring universities to increase their supply of student accommodation for domestic and international students. Tertiary students rely on private rentals and are vulnerable as tenants to living in poor housing conditions. This is particularly the case for international students. We look forward to providing input into this process.

"The national housing and homelessness crisis requires significant investment in social and affordable housing as well as homelessness funding. It also requires lifting people out of poverty through increases in income support and allowances. We look forward to seeing the full housing and homelessness commitments from the government in the Budget on Tuesday evening to address the ongoing crisis.

Contact:

Emma Greenhalgh
Chief Executive Officer
0402 927 243
Emma.greenhalgh@shelter.org.au