

## MEDIA RELEASE

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### **National Shelter welcomes Commonwealth investment to strengthen homelessness and housing policy leadership**

National Shelter warmly welcomes today’s announcement by the Minister for Housing, Minister for Homelessness and Minister for Cities, the Hon Clare O’Neil MP, confirming new Sector Development Grants for National Shelter and Homelessness Australia.

The Albanese Government’s commitment of \$1.6 million per year over three years reinstates core funding for National Shelter that ceased more than a decade ago. This renewed investment recognises the essential role of strong national peak bodies in shaping effective housing and homelessness policy, strengthening sector capability, and ensuring the voices of people with lived experience are embedded in national decision-making.

National Shelter Chair John Engeler said the funding marks a significant and long-overdue step toward rebuilding Australia’s national housing policy infrastructure.

“This investment couldn’t have come at a more critical time. Greater housing security for people on low and very-low incomes remains the gold standard. This funding will allow National Shelter to scale up the policy research, awareness raising, evidence-based advocacy and lived-experience engagement that Australia urgently needs to respond to this housing crisis. With these additional resources, we can work more closely with our members across every state and territory to bring forward practical, grounded solutions to the housing and homelessness crisis.”

— John Engeler, Chair, National Shelter

The funding will enable National Shelter to deepen collaboration with government, the housing and community sector, related industry peaks and importantly include the voices of people with lived experience to inform policy across housing, homelessness, urban renewal and cities portfolios. This includes contributing to policy and program design, service delivery improvements, and the broader reform agenda needed to advance the Government’s long-term housing objectives.

National Shelter Deputy Chair, Jackson Hills said “the investment strengthens the national capacity to drive systemic change and it’s a pivotal time in housing policy and reform for National Shelter to expand its impact”.

“Australia’s housing crisis is decades in the making, and solving it requires coordinated national leadership, strong evidence, and a clear policy vision. This funding ensures National Shelter can continue to provide high-quality analysis, amplify the voices of frontline services and communities, and support government to deliver the housing outcomes Australians deserve.”

With renewed capacity, National Shelter will progress its core policy priorities, including:

- expanding social and affordable housing supply, especially in areas most needed
- strengthening renters’ rights and security to provide long-term housing stability
- addressing the disproportionate housing insecurity experienced by First Nations peoples
- improving income supports and housing affordability, especially for younger people
- embedding social and affordable housing as essential social and economic infrastructure
- advancing a national, ‘generational’ vision of housing equity for all Australians

National Shelter looks forward to working closely with the Albanese Government, our peers at Homelessness Australia, our members, and sector partners to ensure this investment delivers meaningful, measurable improvements in housing security across all our cities and regions.

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