

STATEMENT ON HOUSING FOR WOMEN'S SAFETY

The undersigned organisations are concerned about the continuing toll of violence against women, and lack of Government action to provide safe homes, so women and children can escape violence and rebuild their lives.

Failing to include housing for women's safety on the Agenda at the National Summit on Women's Safety highlights the lack of focus on this critical issue. You simply can't talk about women's safety without talking about safe and affordable homes.

Domestic and family violence is the biggest cause of homelessness for women and children, and an estimated:

- ✓ 7,690 women a year return to perpetrators due to having nowhere to live
- ✓ 9,120 women a year become homeless after leaving their homes due to domestic and family violence and being unable to secure long-term housing.

We call on the Government to address access to safe and affordable housing in the successor National Plan to Reduce Violence Against Women and their Children, by:

- ✓ setting a target to end homelessness for women and children and other victim survivors fleeing violence, and
- ✓ investing to deliver an adequate supply of new social and affordable housing, in partnership with state and territory governments, to meet the need for safe and affordable homes from women and children and other victim survivors fleeing violence
- ✓ Fix social security to protect women and children from poverty and homelessness

In Australia each year 39,000 people come to homelessness services seeking long term housing after experiencing domestic and family violence. Of those, 37,867 miss out on long term housing.

And we know this is not the full scale of the crisis. Many tens of thousands more women stay in a violent home because they have nowhere to go.

Every day, lack of access to safe homes is putting women and children at continued risk of violence. It prevents them recovering and rebuilding their lives. The housing shortfall puts refuges and crisis accommodation under serious pressure, as women stay for extended periods because they cannot exit to permanent homes.

Women and children, and other victim survivors, who experience discrimination and marginalisation, including First Nations women, women with disabilities, women in prison, migrant and refugee women, and LGBTIQ people are most at risk because of lack of access to housing.

Acute shortages of safe accommodation and housing for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and children experiencing domestic and family violence contributes to the high rates of domestic and family violence-related injury and death amongst Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women, and to high rates of child removal.

Providing safe and affordable homes is critical to the safety of women experiencing violence. Australia cannot claim to be serious about women's safety until women can access safe homes.

4 Voices Global Limited	Brigidine Asylum Seekers Project	Community Housing Industry Association Victoria	EMILY's List Australia
Access Community Housing Company	Brisbane Youth Service	Community Housing Industry Association NSW	Fair Agenda
Accordwest	Bryant's Bookkeeping Services	Community Housing Limited	Family Access Network Inc
ACON	Caroline Chisholm Society	Community Information & Support Victoria	Fiji Diaspora Women's Alliance (FDWA)
ACT Council of Social Service	Catherine House, Housing Choices SA	Community Northern Beaches Inc.	Financial Counselling Australia
ACT Shelter	Catholic Care Western Sydney and The Blue Mountains	Community Resource Network Inc	Firefly Interactive Pty Ltd
Affordable Housing Solutions	Catholiccare Diocese of Broken Bay	Compass Housing Services Co Ltd	Foyer Foundation
Anglicare Australia	Centre for Excellence in Child and Family Welfare	Consult Talie	Gender Equity Victoria (GENVIC)
Anglicare Victoria	Centre for Non-Violence	Co-operation Housing	Gold Coast Project for Homeless Youth Inc.
Annie North	Centre for Social Impact	Council of Single Mothers and their Children	Good Samaritan Inn
Anti-Poverty Week	Centre for Women's Safety and Wellbeing	Council to Homeless Persons	Grampians Community Health
Australian Alliance to End Homelessness	CFMEU Construction and General Division	Cumberland Women's Domestic Violence Court Advocacy Service	Gunnedah Family Support
Australian Communities Foundation	Churches Housing Incorporated	Dawn House	Habitat for Humanity Australia
Australian Council of Social Service (ACOSS)	Churches of Christ Housing Services Ltd.	Daydawn Advocacy Centre	Haven Home Safe
Australian Council of Trade Unions (ACTU)	Quantum Support Services	Democracy in Colour	Health Services Union
Australian Ecuatorian Cultural Association	CIT Student Association	DG Media Projects	Highlands Community Centres Inc.
B Miles Women's Foundation	Coffs Harbour Neighborhood Centre	Disability Justice Australia	Hodyl & Co
Ballarat Community Health	Coffs Harbour Older Women's Network	Domestic Violence Crisis Service	Homelessness Australia
Baptist Care Australia	Coffs-Clarence WDVCS	Domestic Violence NSW	Homelessness NSW
Basic Rights Queensland ; Working Womens Centre Qld	cohealth	Domestic Violence Victoria/Domestic Violence Resource Centre Victoria	Homes Out West
Bega Women's Resource Centre	Common Equity Nsw Ltd	Doris Women's Refuge Inc.	Hope Street Youth and Family Services
Beryl Women Inc.	Common Ground Queensland	DV West	Housing Choices Australia
Bethlehem House Tasmania	Community and Public Sector Union	EACH Housing	Housing Choices Tasmania
Better Renting	Community Housing Industry Association	Eastern Community Legal Centre	Housing Choices Western Australia
Beyond Your Bump		EDVOS	Housing for the Aged Action Group
Blacktown Womens and Girls Health Centre			Housing Plus
Bondi Beach Cottage			Hume Riverina Community Legal Service
Bridge Housing Limited			Illawarra Women's Health Centre

Indian (Sub-Cont) Crisis & Support Agency	Murrumbidgee Women's Domestic Violence Court Advocacy Service	Primary Care Connect	Support The Girls Australia
Jenny's Place Inc	Muslim Women Australia	Rape & Domestic Violence Services Australia	Sydney Women's Domestic Violence Court Advocacy Service
Jesuit Social Services	Nambour Community Centre Inc	RDO.	Sydney Women's Counselling Centre
Jireh House	NAPCAN	Beyond Housing	Tenants Queensland
Justice Connect	Narrabri & District Community Aid Service - NHSS	Sacred Heart Mission	Tenants' Union ACT
Karinya House for Mothers and Babies	National Alliance of Seniors for Housing	Safe Futures Foundation	Tenants' Union NSW
Latitude: Directions for Young People	National Older Women's Network Inc	Safe Steps Family Violence Response Centre	Tenants Victoria
Launceston City Mission	National Shelter Inc.	SCALES Community Legal Centre	The Footpath Library Ltd
Launch Housing	National Union of Students	Settlement Services International	The Haymarket Foundation
Orana Support Service	Newcastle WDV CAS	SGCH	The Huon Domestic Violence Service
Linking Communities Network Ltd	Newtown Neighbourhood Centre	Sharehouse Youth Programs Inc	The Immigration Advice and Rights Centre
Lirata Ltd	North Coast Community Housing	Shelter NSW	The Money Project
Lisa Harnum Foundation	Northern Centre against Sexual Assault	Shelter SA	The SAFV Centre
Lou's Place	Northern Rivers Women's Domestic Violence Court Advocacy Service	Shelter Tasmania	The Salvation Army
Macleod Refuge	Northern Sydney Women's Domestic Violence Court Advocacy Service	Shelter WA	Thrive Services
Mallee Family Care	Northside Community Service	Sonshine Sanctuary Association Incorp	UMFC
McAuley Community Services for Women	NT Shelter	Soroptimist International Maylands Peninsula	Uniting Church in Australia, Synod of Victoria and Tasmania
Melbourne City Mission	NT Working Women's Centre	Soroptimist International of South Perth	Uniting NSW.ACT
Mentis Assist	Older Women's Network NSW	South Port Community Housing Group	Uniting Vic.Tas
Merri Outreach Support Service Ltd	Older Women's Network Qld Inc	South West Sydney Legal Centre	UnitingCare Australia
Metro Community Housing	Pacific Link Housing	Southern Youth and Family Services	Unity Housing Company
Mid Coast Women's Domestic Violence Court Advocacy Service	Parkerville Children and Youth Care Inc	St John's Community Services/ Rough Edges	Victorian Council of Social Service (VCOSS)
Mission Australia	Peel Youth Services	St Vincent de Paul Society National Council	Victorian Public Tenants Association
Molonglo Support Services Ltd	Port Stephens Family Family and Neighbourhood Services	St Vincent de Paul Society NSW	VincentCare
Mornington Community Information and Support Centre Inc		St Vincent de Paul Society Tasmania	Visionary Design Development Pty Ltd
Moving Forward DFV Case Management Services Inc.		St Vincent's Health Australia	VMCH
Mt Druitt Family Violence Service			Warrina Domestic & Family Violence Specialist Services
			Wayss Ltd

Women's Domestic
Violence Court
Advocacy Service

Weave Youth and
Community Services

Western Australian
Council for Social
Services

Westside Housing
Company

Whittlesea Community
Connections

Wintringham

WIRE

WomanGoingPlaces

Women Illawarra

Women Working
Wonders

Women's and Girls'
Emergency Centre

Women's Community
Shelters

Women's Electoral
Lobby Australia

Women's Health NSW

Women's Health
Queensland

Women's Health
Victoria

Women's Housing
Company Limited

Women's Legal Service
Tasmania

Women's Liberation
Halfway House

Women's Property
Initiatives

WRISC Family Violence
Support Inc

Women Up North
Housing

Yes Unlimited

Youth Family
& Community
Connections

Yfoundations

Youth Futures Inc.

Youth Off The Streets

Youth Projects

YWCA Australia

YWCA Canberra

Zonta House Refuge
Association Inc