

Housing stress takes centre stage at election

Embargo: Sunday 1 March 2022

A majority of voters in four battleground seats believe the federal government has failed to confront the housing rental crisis, with new opinion polling showing people want greater investment in social and affordable housing, amid skepticism that first home owner grants can fix the problem.

The *Everybody's Home* campaign is today releasing the results of a survey of 3273 voters across the swing seats of Bass (Tas), Longman (Qld), Gilmore (NSW), and Flinders (Vic), and separate analysis of wage and rent data in the same electorates.

It shows the surge in rental prices is swallowing an ever larger chunk of the wages of those who've had some of the most difficult jobs during the pandemic, in aged care, child care and supermarkets.

Across all seats an overwhelming majority of respondents - typically around 75 per cent - thought it was either 'hard' or 'very hard' for people on low-to-middle incomes to buy or rent a home in their community.

Very strong majorities (61-72 per cent) believed the federal government had not done enough to address housing affordability. Even larger majorities (68-76%) thought there was not enough social and affordable housing for people struggling in the housing market.

In all seats respondents preferred social and affordable housing or greater financial support for low-income renters as a solution to the crisis than first home owner grants.

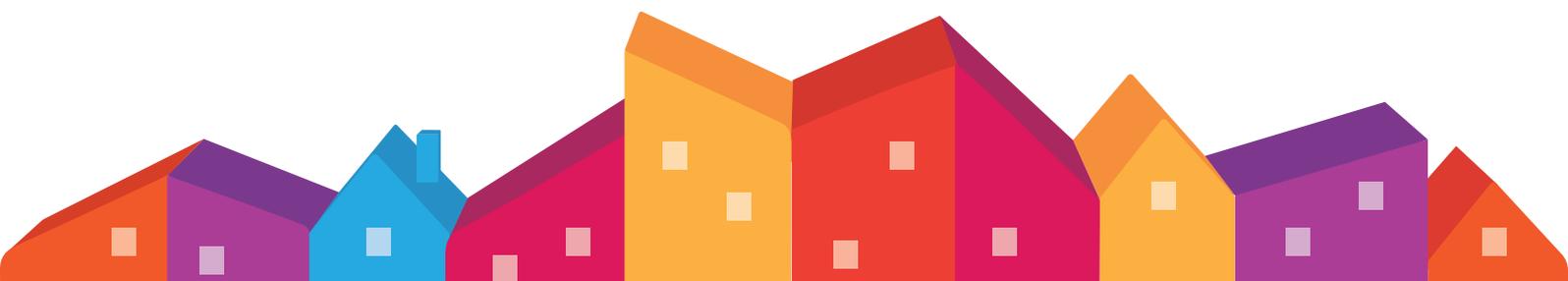
"The housing affordability crisis is absolutely top of mind in swing electorates. Politicians who propose solutions that work, such as more social and affordable housing, will successfully connect with voters," said Kate Colvin, national spokesperson for Everybody's Home. "Voters are rejecting band-aid solutions like first home owner grants because they know we need to give renters on low and modest incomes the stability of a secure home."

Wage and rent data across the four seats demonstrates the cause of the problem. Regions within the selected seats have posted annual rent increases between 7% and 20% meaning workers must now fork out between half and three quarters of their weekly income to pay the rent.

"Rents have surged while incomes have barely budged," Kate Colvin said. "An ever-greater chunk of wages is going to rent and it's pushing people in key jobs like aged care, child care and supermarkets to the brink of homelessness and poverty."

"People on modest incomes now have to fight tooth and nail to get a home and maintain it. It shouldn't be this difficult to keep a roof over your head in a wealthy country like Australia."

For interviews, call Nick Lucchinelli 0422229032



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Fig. 1: Seat of Flinders, VIC

In the area where you live, how easy or hard would it be for people on low-to-middle incomes to find an affordable home to BUY?

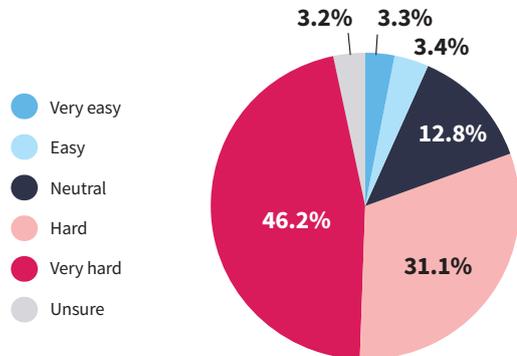


Fig. 2: Seat of Flinders, VIC

In the area where you live, how easy or hard would it be for people on low-to-middle incomes to find an affordable home to RENT?

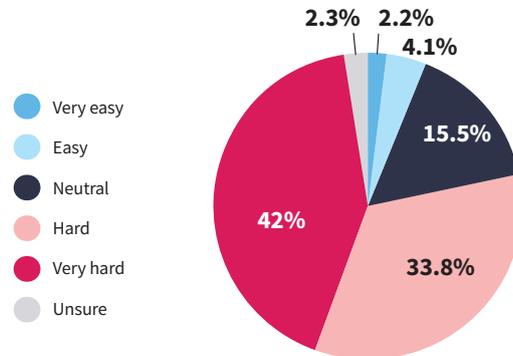


Fig. 3: Seat of Flinders, VIC

Do you think the Federal Government has done enough to address housing affordability?

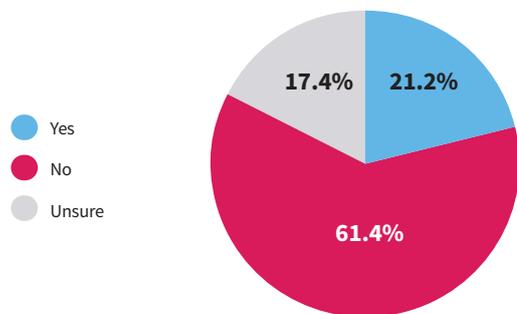
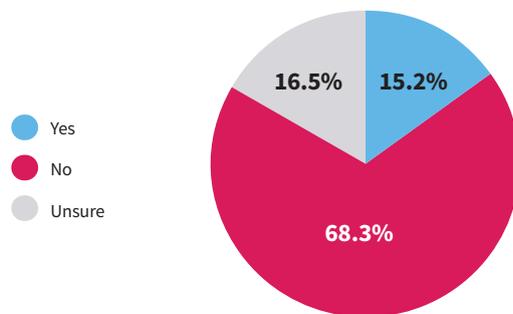


Fig. 4: Seat of Flinders, VIC

Social and affordable housing is a form of housing that is offered to people on low and modest incomes who struggle to afford rent and face the risk of homelessness. Do you think there is enough social and affordable housing for people struggling in the rental market?



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Fig. 5: Seat of Flinders, VIC

What policy would you most like to see the Federal Government use to address issues like rental affordability and homelessness?

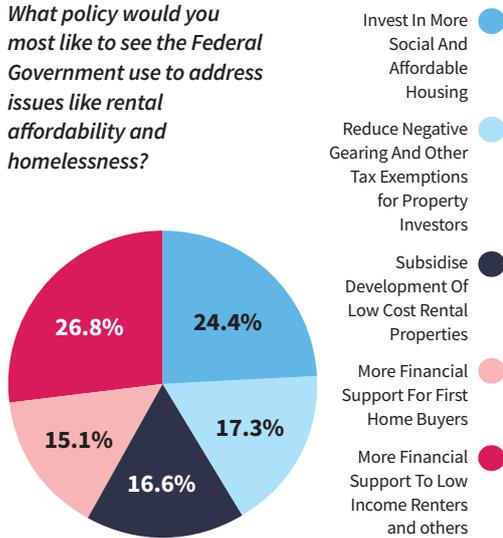


Fig. 6: Seat of Flinders, VIC

The recovery from COVID appears to be a major issue for the upcoming election. What priority should be placed on social housing as part of a plan for our COVID recovery?

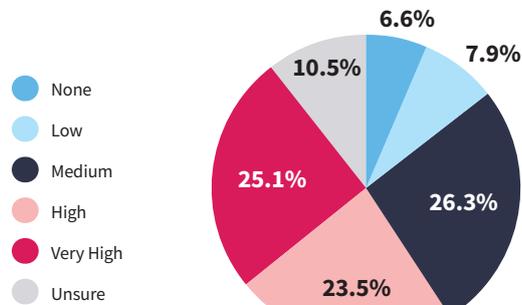


Fig. 7: Seat of Flinders, VIC

Would you agree or disagree that providing social housing to people in need provides benefits for the wider economy and community?

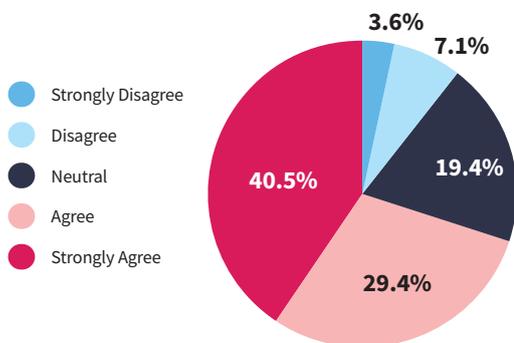


Fig. 8: Mornington Peninsula, VIC

