

[Date]

[Your federal Labor MP's name]

PO Box 6022

[for members of the House of Reps.]

Parliament House

CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear

I write to you about the National Affordable Housing Agreement, which is currently being negotiated by the Australian Government with the state and territory governments.

The introduction of this agreement, replacing the Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement (CSHA), was a Labor Party election commitment, and it will come into operation in January 2009. Crucial to that agreement are the housing targets within it, and the 2009-12 budget allocations to housing.

The Australian Government has started rolling out a number of initiatives to promote housing affordability and affordable housing, such as the First Home Saver Accounts.

I seek your support on two matters that would supplement and enhance the Government's existing initiatives.

The first is enhanced Australian Government funding for the existing system of public and non-profit housing to ensure its financial sustainability and growth. The Australian Government's subsidies to the states and territories are important for the viability of their public and non-profit housing programs. The Howard Government stripped \$3.5 billion from the CSHA. I seek your support in getting the Australian Government to reinstate that amount into the 2009-12 budgets. It is also important to have a growth target, of 30,000 new public and non-profit homes over the next 4 years, put into the National Affordable Housing Agreement.

Secondly, Commonwealth Rent Assistance (CRA) should be reviewed to ensure that it best meets the needs of all low income renters. I believe the maximum rate of CRA should be increased by 30% for low income households.

I join with National Shelter in asking you to raise these matters, of increased Australian Government support for the existing public and non-profit housing programs and of a review of the CRA, with your colleague, the Minister for Housing, the Hon Tanya Plibersek MP.

Sincerely

[Your signature]

[Your address]

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