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## MEDIA RELEASE

### Stimulus Funding for Affordable Housing must not be Cut

Key community groups and the ACTU today strongly opposed any suggestion that funding for affordable housing in the stimulus package should be cut even further than has occurred already.

The groups are calling on Government to ensure funding for social housing is protected from any stimulus withdrawal. Any reduction in stimulus spending in response to improving economic conditions must not be at the expense of urgently-needed affordable housing infrastructure.

With Australia currently experiencing a shortage of 251,000 affordable dwellings and more than a million low income Australians in housing stress, the Group said the government should honour its commitment to affordable housing.

**Adrian Pisarski, Chair, National Shelter:**

"Large and sustained increases in housing supply are crucial to address the housing affordability crisis and to reduce pressures on the general economy."

"Far too many Australians have been left behind due to overpriced and or unavailable housing. Children suffer from changing schools, parents travel too far for work, overcrowding undermines people's health. The Rudd Government has been committed to improving this situation by building more affordable and well located housing, this commitment should be kept."

**Clare Martin, CEO, Australian Council of Social Service:**

"Any exit from stimulus expenditure should not cost low-income Australians. More than a million Australians live in unaffordable housing and every dollar is critical to meet the overwhelming demand. Affordable housing is crucial for national development, community well-being and to ensure low-income Australians have a decent standard of living."

**Carol Croce, Executive Officer Community Housing Federation of Australia:**

"The stimulus package was the biggest investment in affordable housing in 50 years. It has already demonstrated considerable impact and efficiency and should be continued so it may fulfil its promise."

**Jeff Lawrence, Secretary, ACTU:**

"Public investment today in affordable housing is needed and fair. It also boosts national productivity growth tomorrow, and constrains price growth in the broader housing market over time. This component of the stimulus package should not be cut back."

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