

## Shelter Tas welcomes more social housing

Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2019

Shelter Tas, the peak body for housing and homelessness services in Tasmania, has welcomed the Premier's announcement of the initial housing outcomes from the waiving of Tasmania's historic housing debt.

"The injection of \$12 million in Community Housing Grants is a much needed boost to social housing supply, and the added bonus that this housing stays affordable for people in the long term. We welcome the spot purchase of properties, which will enable people to be in a safe and affordable home quickly," Shelter Tas Chief Executive Officer, Pattie Chugg said.

"In this current private rental market even people on moderate and average incomes are struggling with the cost of renting, and it is much worse for those on the lowest of incomes. We urgently need more housing that people can afford. Housing is essential infrastructure and without safe and decent housing people cannot achieve their goals in health, education, employment and all the essentials of life," Ms Chugg said.

"With 8,000 Tasmanian households already in housing stress, and a dire shortage of affordable private rental housing, we still have much more to do. In our Budget Submission 20-21, we call on the State Government to increase the supply of affordable social housing beyond current commitments. This announcement is a good start, and very welcome news," Ms Chugg said.

"We look forward to continuing to work constructively with the Tasmanian Government as the funds made available by the debt relief are allocated. We will continue to advocate for better data collection to capture current and long-term housing need, as well as a target of 10% social and affordable homes to reduce housing stress and homelessness across the State," Ms Chugg said.

**For more information and comment, contact:**

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The Shelter Tas Submission to the State Budget Process is available at:

[https://www.sheltertass.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/Budget-Submission-20-21\\_FINAL.pdf](https://www.sheltertass.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/Budget-Submission-20-21_FINAL.pdf)