



MEDIA RELEASE

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The problem? Building public housing stopped keeping pace with population growth. Today, social housing, a small part of which is public housing, plus homes run by non-profits, makes up less than 3% of Victoria's housing.

Let's drop the fantasy that the private rental market will house pensioners and other people on support incomes. Maybe that was possible in the 70s and 80s. It isn't now, and it won't be anytime soon.

Public housing is the safety net of last resort. Community housing providers, for all their good work, have an incentive to choose less vulnerable tenants and exclude those who don't suit their narrative. That leaves the most vulnerable people relying on public housing.

And demand is rising. The need among pensioners alone is growing fast.

Yet the Victorian Government isn't building new public housing. It's backing community housing instead. When it demolishes the public housing towers, it's replacing them with market-rate and non-profit housing, not public homes. When developers include affordable housing in their plans it is only for a limited time of a few years

We clapped for our essential workers during lockdowns. But now they are driving over an hour to work and some sleep in cars. Rural towns are struggling to get workers because there is no-where for them to live. We need a government who is ready to step up and strengthen the foundations of our towns with affordable and accessible housing.

QUOTE: "A home is a place to live, not a market commodity"

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