



14 May 2021

## MEDIA RELEASE

### Vinnies welcomes support for social housing

The National Council of the St Vincent de Paul Society applauds Labor's commitment to a \$10 billion investment in social housing announced in the Federal Budget Reply.

Speaking shortly after the speech, National President Claire Victory said the establishment of the Housing Australia Future Fund and building of 20,000 social housing properties over the next five years is a much needed and welcome commitment to addressing the shortfall of 500,000 homes nationally.

'Given that family violence is the leading cause of homelessness, it is reassuring to see that four thousand of the 20,000 dwellings will be allocated to older women and families fleeing domestic violence and that \$100 million has been set aside for crisis and transitional housing,' said Ms Victory.

'The initiative will also boost the economy through the creation of 21,500 jobs each year, of which one in ten will be apprenticeships.

'Housing is vital for better outcomes in health, including mental health, education and employment, as well as economic and social participation.

'Housing insecurity perpetuates high use of other government services such as health and hospital care, emergency services and interactions with the justice system.

'Supported housing saves \$13,000 per person annually in reduced use of government services, even after factoring in the housing cost,' Ms Victory said.

Ms Victory said the Society also welcomes Labor's commitment to:

- our First Nations people, the Statement from the Heart and holding a referendum
- securing jobs through the Fair Work Act, defining casual work, criminalising wage theft and providing 10 days paid family and domestic violence leave
- abolishing the childcare cap, increasing the subsidy to lower costs and helping four times the number of families currently being assisted
- establishing Jobs and Skills Australia and the National Reconstruction Fund
- moving to net zero emissions by 2050, with 10,000 New Energy apprenticeships
- supporting the Fair Work Commission to lift aged care wages and setting minimum levels of nurses, assistants and carers.

'It was disappointing, however, not to see anything about income support for some of the country's most disadvantaged people,' Ms Victory said.

*The St Vincent de Paul Society in Australia consists of 60,000 members and volunteers who operate on the ground through over 1,000 groups located in local communities across the country.*

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