



MEDIA RELEASE

CHIA welcomes Treasurer's support for enhanced community housing sector to meet housing affordability challenge

Tuesday, 11 April 2017

Michael Lennon, Chairperson of the Community Housing Industry Association (CHIA), the peak industry body for the Australian community housing industry, welcomed comments made by Treasurer Scott Morrison during his address to Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute in Melbourne yesterday regarding the crucial role of community housing in providing much needed additional affordable rental accommodation.

"The Treasurer's speech was heartening in two major respects. First, the Treasurer clearly acknowledged that housing affordability is one of the key policy challenges facing Australia governments and one that can't be ignored. Second, the Treasurer recognised that a central policy objective must be supporting the community housing sector to provide a meaningful uplift in affordable rental housing stock." Mr. Lennon said

"CHIA agrees with the Treasurer that there is significant room for improvement in how the social housing system is funded and supports reforms to the National Affordable Housing Agreement designed to boost housing supply. We believe that those reforms should form a pivotal part of a broader 10 year affordable housing plan designed to deliver a net increase of 150,000 extra dwellings in the social housing system during the next decade." Mr. Lennon said.

"CHIA also welcomes the Treasurer's remarks in relation to the establishment of a bond aggregator that would give community housing providers access to cheaper, longer term finance. The establishment of a bond aggregator is a vital step in growing and developing the community housing industry in Australia and, ultimately, providing more affordable housing for the people who need it.

" CHIA and the community housing sector looks forward to working in partnership with the Federal Government as it's housing policy initiatives take shape in the months ahead" said. Mr Lennon

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