

The Hon. Scott Morrison, MP Prime Minister of Australia 29 September 2020

Dear Prime Minister,

It's time for every Australian to have a home

I am writing to you on behalf of more than 300 Australian organisations spanning the community, housing, local government, union and corporate sectors.

We write to call on you to commit to significant new investment to reduce homelessness and create construction jobs.

Australia is in the midst of an economic crisis which threatens the livelihood and well-being of over one million Australians.

Before COVID-19, 116,000 Australians were homeless every night. The impact of the global pandemic will exacerbate this, placing stress on the one in three Australians who rent.

Australia's recession has already seen thousands of jobs lost in the construction industry, with thousands more jobs projected to go in coming months.

Investment in social housing will create the long-term pipeline of projects and construction- jobs needed in local communities as they rebuild after this pandemic.

Building 30,000 social housing properties over four years will create more than 18,000 construction related jobs a year for our building sector.

It will also keep 30,000 Australian families housed at a time when they face significant upheaval.

Federal governments have intervened during earlier times of crisis.

The post 2nd World War public housing boom was the result of bipartisan support for a national building program that helped lead Australia's economic recovery and keep its citizens housed.

Federal social housing investment after Cyclone Tracy and the Global Financial Crisis was also instrumental in helping our communities and local economies rebuild.

Housing is a fundamental need and our national response must rise above state boundaries or party politics. From Chifley and Menzies to Whitlam and Fraser housing programs worked because they were driven by national leadership. This tradition must be honored.

We urge the Federal Government to lead a social investment program to ensure we keep Australians housed and our construction industry building.

Yours faithfully,

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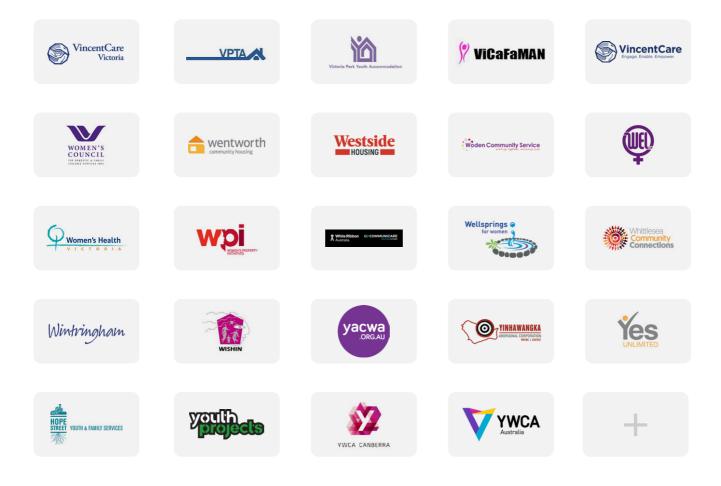
Kate Colvin, National Spokesperson, Everybody's Home Campaign

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Calvary Youth Services Mandurah Inc

Community Housing Industry Association (ACT Regional Committee)

Family Access Network

Flat Out Inc

Gippsland Homelessness Network

GOPIO Canberra chapter

Maroba

Mentis Assist

Mornington Community Information and Support Centre

Mount Isa Family Support Service & Neighbourhood Centre Inc

Northern Integrated Family Violence Services Partnership

Orange Local Aborignal Land Council

Orange Uniting Church

Roseberry QLD

Safe Futures Foundation

Safe Place Homes

SEWACS

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