



MEDIA RELEASE

Community Housing Industry Association endorses federal housing initiatives

The Community Housing Industry Association (CHIA) has strongly endorsed the Commonwealth's latest steps to deliver new social and affordable homes across Australia with the announcement applications will soon open for funding under the Housing Australia Future Fund (HAFF) and the National Housing Accord.

Wendy Hayhurst, Chief Executive of CHIA, said: "This is a significant first step. The Commonwealth's commitment to fund 40,000 new rental homes through the HAFF and the Accord will make a tangible improvement for those who need affordable housing."

The HAFF and the Accord are integral to tackling the housing crisis. Working through Housing Australia, community housing providers can access long-term concessional loans and availability payments, and in some cases upfront capital grants.

"We are encouraged by the introduction of a standardised financial model to help providers in their submissions and reduce the dollars involved in putting together a tender," Hayhurst said. "This is more than just about building homes; it's about allowing more Australians to live their best lives. The housing crisis has pushed more Australians to the brink and created a new class of working poor. We are heartened to see the strong resolve to build homes that people can realistically rent."

Applications will be independently assessed by Housing Australia, in line with its recently updated investment mandate, which outlines the eligibility criteria and financial support options available. Successful applicants are expected to receive offers of financial support in mid-2024, with funding to be available from 2024-25.

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