



To: The Hon Jim Chalmers MP, Treasurer of Australia

Cc: The Hon Julie Collins MP, Minister for Housing and Homelessness

Don't cut homelessness services in a housing crisis

Dear Treasurer Chalmers and Minister Collins,

We are writing to urge you to maintain funding for homelessness services and not cut \$65 million from programs that provide critical support to people who have lost, or risk losing their home.

Record rent increases over the past couple of years and record low vacancy rates mean homelessness services are under immense pressure. Rising interest rates will only add to the challenge. In 2020-21 services were unable to assist 288 people per day, of whom two thirds were women and children, many fleeing domestic and family violence.

It is estimated that these cuts would result in a loss of 650 homelessness workers across the country, three quarters of whom are women. With less workers to provide the help people need, more people will be turned away.

These service cuts will have a devastating impact on vulnerable people using homelessness services. Of those needing help:

- 39 per cent are women and children and other survivors who have experienced domestic and family violence
- 42 per cent are children or young people under 24, and
- more than 25,000 are over 55.

We note that in the 2022 Budget, the Federal Government committed \$560 million to Commonwealth funded community services to meet the ongoing costs of the Equal Remuneration Order (ERO). This funding was welcome and will provide important ongoing capacity in these services. We are seeking equity in treatment of Commonwealth funded services to provide ongoing funding for the costs of ERO faced by homelessness services funded through the National Housing and Homelessness Agreement.

We understand that the NHHA is being rolled over for 12 months to align the new Agreement with the National Housing and Homelessness Plan. The new Agreement will be an opportunity

to better match housing and homelessness investment to the scale of need. But over the 12 month extension, it is critical that funding levels are maintained, and not cut, as a minimum.

We acknowledge that the Federal Government has provided welcome new commitments to build social and affordable housing and has outlined an ambitious plan with the states and territories to end violence against women and children. In 2023, the Federal Government will deliver an Action Plan to end violence against women and children and develop a National Housing and Homelessness Plan.

In order to respond to people in crisis and ultimately to reduce homelessness, the undersigned organisations urge the Federal Government to recommit to federal funding of ERO supplementation over the forward estimates to at least maintain homelessness service capacity at its current level.

Kate Colvin



CEO, Homelessness Australia

Wendy Hayhurst



CEO, Community Housing Industry Association

Emma Greenhalgh



CEO, National Shelter

Dr Cassandra Goldie



CEO, ACOSS

on behalf of:

ACRO Australian Community Safety & Research Organisation

ACT Council of Social Service

ACT Shelter

Action on Housing Older Women (AHOW)

Anchor

Anglicare Australia

Anglicare Victoria

AnglicareCQ

AnglicareSA
Anglicare WA
Anti-Poverty Week
Armidale Mens Homelessness Service
Australian Association of Social Workers
B Miles Women's Foundation
Babi Youth & Family Service
Bendigo Winter Night Shelter
Berry Street
Beryl Women Inc.
Blacktown Womens and Girls Health Centre
Bonnie Support Services Ltd
Brisbane youth Service
Brophy Family & Youth Services
Built for Good
Cafs (Child & Family Services, Ballarat
Calvary Youth Services Mandurah Inc
Caroline Chisholm Society
Carrie's Place Domestic Violence & Homelessness Services Inc
Catholic Social Services Australia Limited
Centacare Catholic Family Services
Centre for Non-Violence
Children's Resource Program
Clarence River Domestic and Family Violence Specialist Service
Coast Shelter
Coffs Clarence WDVCS
cohealth
Colony 47
Common Ground Queensland
Community Action Inc
Community Housing Industry Association Qld
Community Information & Support Victoria (CISVic)
Community Restorative Centre
Community Restorative Centre (CRC)
Consult Talie

Council of Single Mothers and their Children
Council to Homeless Persons
CTC Shaping Futures Youth Housing and Reintegration Services
Curious Minds Media
CVGT YConnect
Dawn House
Domestic Violence Crisis Service (ACT)
DPV Health
EACH
EACH Housing
Eastlakes Family Support Service Inc.
Echo Australia Incorporated
Eco Beach
Family Access Network Inc
Family Emergency Accommodation Townsville Inc.
Flat Out Inc
Fusion Australia Ltd
GenU
Georgina Martina Inc
Gippsland Lakes Complete Health
Gold Coast Project for Homeless Youth Inc.
Good Samaritan Inn
Good Shepherd Australia New Zealand
Great Lakes Womens Shelter
Habitat for Humanity Australia
Havelock Housing Limited
Haven; Home, Safe
Hobart City Mission
Homelessness NSW
Homelessness QLD
inCommunity Inc
Inspire Youth & Family Services
Inala Youth Care Community
Jenny's Place Inc
Jesuit Social Services

Jewish House
Jireh House
Juno
Justice Connect
Kids' Own Publishing
Kyabra Community Association Inc.
Latitude: Directions for Young People
Launceston City Mission
Launceston Women's Shelter Inc
Launch Housing
Leopard Consulting
Lillian Howell Project Inc
Linking Communities Network Ltd
Lokahi Foundation
Macleod Accommodation Support Service
Magnolia Place LWS
McAuley Community Services for Women
McCormack Housing/ACSO
Melbourne City Mission
Mental Health Community Coalition (MHCC ACT)
Merri Outreach Support Service Ltd
Mission Australia Housing
Mithangkaya Nguli - Young People Ahead Youth and Community Services Indigenous Corporation
Molonglo Support Services
Moreton Group Medical Services
Morningside Community Support Centre
Moving Forward DFV Case Management Services Inc.
Narrabri & District Community Aid Service Inc.
National Women's Safety Alliance
National Youth Commission Australia
NCOSS
Newcastle Domestic Violence Committee
Newtown Neighbourhood Centre
Nexus Care Services
North East Community Support Group Inc

North West Youth Accommodation Service Inc.
Northern Beaches Women's Shelter
Northern Region Homelessness Network
Nova for Women and Children
NT Shelter
NTCOSS
Older Women's Network NSW
Parkerville Children and Youth Care
Pathways Tasmania Ltd.
Peel Youth Services
Peelconnect incorporated
Phoenix House Youth Services
Platform Youth Service
Port Stephens Family and Neighbourhood Services
Project Respect
Project Youth
Q Shelter
QCOSS
Quantum Support Services
Queensland Youth Housing Coalition
Quihn
REFOCUS
Rise
Roseberry Community Services Ltd
Ruah
Ryde Family Services TA The Northern Centre
Sacred Heart Mission
Safe and Equal
Safe Place Homes Inc.
SAHSSI
Saints Care - Youth Rezolutions
Shelter Housing Action Cairns Association Incorporated
Shelter SA
Shelter Tasmania
Social Futures
Soroptimists International of The Hills Inc.

South Australian Council of Social Service
South Port Community Housing Group
Southern Homelessness Services Network
Southern Youth and Family Services
Special Need Dental clinic St Vincent's hospital
St John's Youth Services
St Vincent de Paul Society Canberra/Goulburn
St Vincent de Paul Society National Council
St. Laurence House
St. Mary's House Of Welcome
Sunbury & Cobaw Community Health
SYC Ltd
Sydney Women's Counselling Centre
Taldumande Youth Services
Tasmanian Council of Social Service
Teen Challenge QLD
The Huon Domestic Violence
The Northern Centre
The Salvation Army
The Salvation Army - Youth Services
3rd Space
The Shack Community Centre Inc
The Youth Affairs Council of WA
Toward Home Alliance
Tumut Regional Family Services Inc.
Uniting Communities Inc.
Uniting Country Housing
Uniting Vic.Tas
UnitingCare Australia
UnitingCare Queensland
UnitingCountrySA
VACCA
Veritas House
Victoria Park Youth Accommodation
Victorian Council of Social Service

Victorian Homelessness Network
Victorian Public Tenants Association
VincentCare
WACOSS
Walk and Talk for Wellness
Warrawee Women's Shelter
Warrina Domestic and Family Violence Specialist services coop ltd
Wayss Ltd
WDVCAS
We Care 2 inc
Wellsprings for Women
Wellways Australia
Wesley Mission
Wesley Mission Queensland
Wesley Youth Accommodation Service Coffs Bellingen Nambucca
WESNET (Women's Services Network) Inc
West Coast Youth and Community Support Inc.
Western Homelessness Network
WEstjustice
Whitelion Youth
Wintringham
WIRE
Woden Community Service
Wollongong Homeless Hub and Housing Services
Wombat Housing Support Services Inc
Women's and Girls' Emergency Centre (WAGEC)
Women's Community Shelters
Women's Housing Company
Women's Housing Limited
Women's Property Initiatives
WRISC Family Violence Support Inc
Wyndarra Centre
Yellow Paint Incorporated
YellowBridge Qld
YFoundations
YFS Ltd

Yoorana Women's Domestic Violence and Resource Centre

Yorgum Healing Services

Youth Coalition of the ACT

Youth Development Australia

Youth Housing Project

Youth Off The Streets

Youth, Family and Community Connections Inc.

YWCA Australia

YWCA Canberra

Zig Zag Young Women's Resource Centre Inc

Zonta House Refuge Association Inc.