



AASW

Australian Association
of Social Workers

AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS
NATIONAL POLICY PLATFORM - HOUSING
Federal Election 2022

HOUSING PORTFOLIO

We advocate for:

Justice and social fairness, by acting to reduce barriers and to expand choice and potential for all persons, with special regard for those who are disadvantaged, vulnerable, isolated, oppressed or have exceptional needs.

Social justice is a core principle that we promote and uphold for society in general and for the people with whom we work.

This includes recognising and adopting policies which respond to the social and environmental determinants of health, that is, the non-medical factors which influence health outcomes such as income and social protection, employment, education, housing, social inclusion and non-discrimination, and, access to affordable health services of decent quality.

We believe healthy individuals and communities can only be achieved by recognising the social determinants of health. Yet many Australians in the community face housing insecurity, instability, and/or homelessness.

We believe this can be advanced by:

Investing in more social housing and providing greater support for renters. This will mitigate homelessness, mental and physical ill-health, financial stress and overcrowding. It will also assist families' financial stability and capacity to plan for long term goals such as educational attainment, and employment plans. It will support work currently underway to decrease domestic and family violence, Alcohol- and Other Drug-Related Harm.

To do this the Australian Government must:

- a) Build more social and affordable housing;
- b) Develop a National Housing Strategy;
- c) Increase the maximum rate of Commonwealth Rent Assistance by at least 50 percent; and,
- d) Provide Commonwealth leadership to make renting fairer in all states and territories.

We believe this will:

Foster social justice and access and equity for all Australians including our most vulnerable communities.

AASW MEMBER RESPONSES

WHAT IS YOUR TOP FEDERAL 2022 BUDGET AND ELECTION PRIORITY?

"Social Housing, with the ongoing decrease in housing affordability this is a fundamental social justice issue."

"Affordable housings: homelessness will increase, due to low income, unemployment, increased divorce rates, increased of housing price."

"Housing issues of accessibility and cost of renting and/or buying is creating a generation vulnerable to transience and homelessness. Costs of getting into housing create excessive financial stressors for people which impact on family violence, small children being in long hours of childcare and general impacts on mental health of adults."

"Properly fund health services in remote Aboriginal Communities and improve housing in remote Aboriginal Communities."

"Not enough emergency housing for victims of DV so victims stay in abusive relationships Minimal accommodation services for pets so victims can leave Police do not have enough power to make the perpetrators leave the home to keep victims safe."

"Housing affordability is essential as rent prices are skyrocketing and people are at risk of having to relocate and therefore lose social supports."

"Housing. The housing crisis in Northern NSW is unprecedented and unethical. As housing prices go up and social housing becomes fewer we are going to see high levels of homelessness like we do in America."

"Housing for older women."

"Providing housing and health services for very remote Aboriginal people."

"Housing Affordability."

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