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MEDIA RELEASE

Premier's housing package leaves NSW families out in the cold

The Premier's housing package will not fully address housing issues for many NSW families and needs more detail how will provide the 100,000 new affordable rental homes needed in NSW, peak housing and homeless bodies warn.

The NSW Federation of Housing Associations and Homelessness NSW said the package does little to help people on low incomes or provide the 100,000 new affordable homes NSW will need by 2036 – just to keep pace with today's population.

There is no detail on how it will extend the Social and Affordable Housing Fund or meet the \$950 million funding gap for social housing identified by IPART.

There is also no mention of affordable housing targets or inclusionary zoning in the planning measures announced by the Premier today.

The Federation's Deborah Georgiou said measures announced today are not enough to make a dent in the size of the issue for ordinary working families on low and middle incomes.

"The Premier is right to say there is no single solution and it is a complex challenge. We are very pleased she's opened the door to further measures in the future," Ms Georgiou said.

"The dream of owning a home is still alive for many, but the average Sydney house prices is 12 times the average wage. Many workers are now realistically locked out of buying unless there's a massive crash in prices, which nobody wants.

"It's disappointing the Premier, is still focussed on making supply the only answer – an approach challenged by economists here and around the world. Hopefully there will be more measures announced in the State Budget."

To date the SAHF has funded just over 2000 homes, which, while welcome, isn't enough. Banks and institutional investors all say they need a long term policy commitment, backed by financial support from governments to be confident in investing in social and affordable housing."

Homelessness NSW CEO, Katherine McKernan, said low income earners were hardest hit by Sydney's housing crisis, but the least talked about.

"Since 2011 the number of rough sleepers in Sydney has increased 28%, and access to homelessness services has increased by 35% yet this package does nothing to address this crisis," she said.

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“We need the State Government to urgently implement a Housing First approach to end homelessness for rough sleepers, young people and women and children experiencing domestic and family violence.

“Increasing supply and supporting first homeowners is not enough. Without real investment in social and affordable housing with appropriate support we will continue to see the number of people experiencing homelessness increase.

“We are hopeful that the State Budget will include further measures that include investment to end homelessness.”

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