

Media Release

Friday, August 9, 2013

Government must address Housing Affordability to Reduce Homelessness

A severe lack of affordable housing in Australia's cities is leaving vulnerable people without access to one of life's most basic needs.

With Homeless Persons Week drawing to a close, the Urban Development Institute of Australia is calling on all sides of politics to outline their plans to improve housing affordability in Australian cities.

"Only a small minority of people suffering from homelessness are those 'sleeping rough'," said UDIA National President Julie Katz.

"The majority are living in temporary accommodation, staying with friends or are living in inadequate or severely overcrowded dwellings.

"A lack of adequate and affordable housing is one of the key factors contributing to the plight of these 'hidden' homeless.

Constrained greenfield land supply, poor planning, inadequate investment in infrastructure, and numerous unfair and inequitable taxes are pushing up housing costs and hindering new supply.

UDIA is urging the incoming federal government to address these constraints in order to improve housing affordability and reduce homelessness.

"It is essential for governments to address housing affordability if they are serious about reducing homelessness" concluded Ms Katz.

More details of UDIA's policies to improve housing affordability are available at www.udia.com.au.

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