

MEDIA RELEASE

EMBARGOED FOR RELEASE AT 12.03am (AEST) on MONDAY 29 APRIL 2019

HOMES REMAIN UNAFFORDABLE FOR THE VULNERABLE

The 2019 Rental Affordability Snapshot, released by Anglicare Australia today, demonstrates that there continues to be a housing affordability crisis across Australia and in the Northern Territory. The annual survey of rental properties, held on 23 March, identified no properties that were affordable and appropriate for Territorians who receive Newstart Allowance, Single Parenting Payment, Disability Support Pension or Youth Allowance.

“All Territorians need a place to call home. People should not have to choose between having a roof over their heads or food on the table,” said Dave Pugh CEO Anglicare NT.

“Our data shows that despite the cost of rent falling, the private rental market is still out of reach for many Territorians including single parent families, people on disability support and single older people on the pension.”

“These people, and their children, often resort to living in severely overcrowded houses that provide a roof, but not a home. Some move from place to place, living in temporary accommodation and others are forced to sleep rough. Without a home, every day becomes a struggle.”

Anglicare NT is calling on both the Commonwealth and Territory Governments to make a long-term commitment to provide more affordable housing for Territorians.

“We need at least 700 new public and other affordable homes each year across the Northern Territory to meet demand into the future,” said Mr Pugh.

“In the Northern Territory there are around 4000 households currently on the public housing waitlist, with a wait time of up to 6-8 years.”

“Given private rent is unaffordable, and there is a severe shortage of social housing, it is unsurprising that many of these people end up homeless or living in overcrowded conditions.”

“More investment is needed in urban areas as well as remote. It is estimated that Darwin will need an additional 160 new affordable homes each year to meet demand. This is significantly more than the 32 homes that were delivered by the NT Government in urban areas in 2016-17.”

“To live your best life, you need a place to call home. It is possible. Imagine if all Territorians had a place to call home,” said Mr Pugh.

The Rental Affordability Snapshot report will be available at:
<https://www.anglicare-nt.org.au/about/publications/resources>
<https://www.anglicare.asn.au/our-work/research-reports>

FOR COMMENTS OR INTERVIEWS

To arrange interviews with Anglicare NT CEO Dave Pugh regarding Rental Affordability, please contact Anglicare NT Media.

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