

MEDIA RELEASE

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MORE INVESTMENT URGENTLY NEEDED IN AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Anglicare NT is calling on the government to urgently invest in more affordable homes and raise the rate of welfare. The call is being made as Anglicare NT and Anglicare Australia release the annual Rental Affordability Snapshot.

On the Snapshot weekend of 26 March 2021, 387 private rentals were advertised for rent in the Northern Territory. Of these properties:

- No properties were affordable for singles, single parents or couples with children living on the JobSeeker payment
- No properties were affordable for singles aged over 18 on Youth Allowance in the NT
- Only 2% of properties were affordable for couples on the Age Pension, with no properties affordable for singles on the Age Pension or Disability Support Pension
- Regional areas like Katherine and Alice Springs are even more unaffordable than Darwin/Palmerston.

“Compared to this time last year, fewer private rentals are available and the cost of renting has increased,” said Anglicare NT CEO Dave Pugh.

“As long as the Government keeps payments below the poverty line, people out of work will be pushed deeper into poverty and homelessness.”

“It’s time to end the poverty trap once and for all. The Government must raise the rate of JobSeeker above the poverty line. If it doesn’t, people out of work will be pushed deeper into housing stress and homelessness.”

“We have a massive shortfall of affordable homes in the Territory. The Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute shows that we currently have a shortfall of 6,700 social and affordable rentals across the Northern Territory. By 2036, that number is expected to grow to 14,500.”

“It’s clear that we must invest in affordable housing. The sobering results of this Snapshot show that this investment is truly urgent. The Northern Territory Government must make good on its discussion papers and housing strategies to grow a community housing sector in the Territory.”

“Nobody should be forced to make impossible sacrifices just to keep a roof over their head. It’s time to take real action, and make sure everyone has a place to call home.”

FOR COMMENTS OR INTERVIEWS

To arrange an interview, please contact Anglicare NT media team.

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