

MEDIA RELEASE

30 APRIL 2015

Chronic housing stress in the Territory – a long way to go

“The national Anglicare Australia Rental Affordability Snapshot figures this year show there is a severe housing crisis for people on low incomes and the numbers in the Northern Territory paint a glaring picture,” said Anglicare NT CEO, Dave Pugh.

Anglicare’s annual Rental Affordability Snapshot will be launched at Parliament House in Canberra at 10.30am this morning, supported by key peak bodies representing the aged, young people, people with mental health issues, women escaping domestic violence and people with a disability.

“Over the weekend of 11 April, we surveyed 1367 properties in the Northern Territory and found zero (0) properties that were both affordable and appropriate for people who receive Newstart Allowance, Single Parenting Payment, Disability Support Pension or Youth Allowance. This is simply alarming,” said Dave Pugh.

“We were also only able to find four individual properties suitable for a couple who receive the age pension and 25 individual properties suitable for a household living on minimum wage without placing them in housing stress.

“People from all walks of life are suffering chronic housing stress across Australia; forgoing daily necessities in order to pay the rent. We know in the Northern Territory this means they are often living in overcrowded houses, cars, parks or shelters without access to essential services such as electricity, water or fresh and healthy food.

“This report now in its fourth year, continues to highlight the deepening trend within the Northern Territory of lack of availability of housing stock that is both appropriate and affordable for those in our community who have the most limited resources.

“Through our work supporting families across the Northern Territory, we hear stories about women trying to escape domestic violence or young people transitioning to independence. In the Northern Territory nearly 4000 young people aged between 12 – 24 years are living in overcrowded accommodation or couch surfing. We know they need somewhere safe and secure to live however the numbers in this report prove right now those places just don’t exist.

“This housing crisis will continue to disadvantage and impact on the ability of Territorians to meaningfully participate in their community; to find work, complete education and contribute to their neighbourhoods.

“What we want is a plan for affordable housing supported by all levels of government, which means more social housing and real collaboration between the community sector and government.

“Anglicare NT encourages both the Territory and Australian governments to make a meaningful and long term commitment towards the National Affordable Housing Agreement. Particular emphasis should be placed on housing for Indigenous people and young people. The 3% real terms increase announced in the Territory Government Budget on Tuesday is a positive step but we have a long way to go”.

For more information download the Rental Affordability Snapshot report:
<http://www.anglicare.asn.au/site/home.php>

FOR COMMENTS OR INTERVIEWS

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

MEDIA INQUIRIES: Ashley Perez – 0447 945 117



@AnglicareNT #RentalSnapshot #RAS