

To the Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly in Parliament assembled.

This petition of *residents of New South Wales* brings to the attention of the House the urgent need for the NSW Government to deliver more social housing.

Across NSW, thousands of people, including children, are without a place to call home. Many are living on the streets, sleeping in parks, and living out of their cars. Others rely on emergency accommodation, boarding houses, and the generosity of family and friends. Some are forced to live in severely overcrowded conditions. In the most tragic of circumstances, women and children are staying with violent partners because they have nowhere else to go.

At the same time, many people are living with chronic housing stress. This can mean they do not have enough money to pay for other household essentials including food and electricity. It can be a catalyst for relationship breakdown, substance abuse, and mental ill-health. Without a secure home it is hard to get a job, keep up with school or access health and community services.

Social housing should be a safety net to support people experiencing homelessness and housing stress. But there is not enough. More than 50,000 applicants are waiting for social housing in NSW. In parts of the state the wait time is in excess of 10 years.

The undersigned petitioners therefore ask the Legislative Assembly to urge the NSW Government to build 5,000 new social housing dwellings each year for the next 10 years to reduce homelessness and housing stress in NSW.

Name	Address	Email optional	Signature

Authorised by Jack De Groot, CEO, St Vincent de Paul Society NSW, PO Box 5 Petersham NSW 2049.

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