

Housing and Homelessness

Everyone needs a place to call home. But for many, this is out of reach.

A growing number of people live in chronic housing stress or severely crowded conditions. Others sleep on the streets, live out of their cars, or rely on temporary arrangements such as caravan parks, boarding houses, or the generosity of friends and family.

Without a secure place to live, every day can be a struggle. It can be hard to put food on the table, find and maintain work, keep up with school, or plan for the future.

At Vinnies we do our best to support those in need, but the lack of access to safe, secure and affordable housing traps people in poverty and unsafe relationships and fractures families and communities.

In the electorate of Newcastle:



Approximately
23.9% of renters
are in financial stress.¹



1277 households
are on the general waitlist for social housing, with a further 89 households on the priority list. Approved applicants can expect to wait 5-10 years before a suitable property becomes available.²



Approximately
800 people
are experiencing homelessness.³ Of these, 89 are sleeping rough.⁴

Recommendations:

Housing stress and homelessness are not inevitable. So that more people can realise the right to a home, we call on the next Federal Government to:

1. Develop a 10-year National Housing Strategy underpinned by a \$10 billion Social and Affordable Housing Fund
2. Increase Commonwealth Rent Assistance
3. Reinststate the National Rental Affordability Scheme
4. Fund a National Low Income Energy Productivity Program and introduce minimum efficiency standards for rented homes.

¹ Everybody's Home (2022) [Financial Stress Map NSW](#), using data collected by Data Finance Analytics.

² Source: NSW FACS (2021) Expected Waiting Times. Available online at <https://www.facs.nsw.gov.au/housing/help/applying-assistance/expected-waiting-times>. Figures are for the Newcastle allocation zone.

³ ABS (2016) Census of Population and Housing 2016. Data sourced via Everybody's Home <http://everybodyshome.com.au/heat-maps/>

⁴ ABS (2016) Census of Population and Housing 2016. Data sourced via the Australian Alliance to End Homelessness <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/60fb893b3e8e441a8ada02ddef3e0c62>