

# How government can address the homelessness emergency

The number of Australians who are homeless or at risk of homelessness increased by 63% between 2016 and 2022, representing between 2.7 and 3.2 million people<sup>i</sup>

To address this, the government's investment into social and affordable housing should now be complemented by a focus on **prevention and early intervention** to ensure homelessness becomes **rare, brief and non-recurring**

Mission Australia calls on the government to implement the following:

## Establish a \$500 million Prevention Transformation Fund

This would shift the homelessness system from its current crisis-driven approach, towards a system that actively prevents homelessness from occurring in the first place.



## Build more social and affordable housing

Significantly boost the number of social and affordable homes to 10% of all housing stock to meet the need in the community.

Mandate a portion of affordable homes in all new large-scale apartment developments across Australia.

## Boost assistance so no one lives in poverty

Last year, over 40% of low-income households were in housing stress and at risk of being pushed into homelessness, despite receiving Commonwealth Rent Assistance (CRA).<sup>ii</sup>

Raise the maximum threshold for CRA by 60% and ensure it remains an effective payment for those struggling to pay rent.

Raise the rate of Jobseeker and other income support payments to at least \$82 a day so everyone can keep a roof over their head and food on the table.

<sup>i</sup> Report on Government Services 2024 G Housing and homelessness, Productivity Commission

<sup>ii</sup> Call Unanswered Unmet Demand for Specialist Homelessness Services, Impact Economics and Policy (2024)