

Personal and Indirect Tax, Charities and Housing Division
Treasury
Langton Cres
Parkes ACT 2600

Wednesday 11 January 2023

Dear Secretary,

Re: Housing Legislative Package: Housing Australia Future Fund Bill, National Housing Supply and Affordability Council Bill, and Amendment Bill

Please accept this letter as Domestic Violence NSW's submission in response to the exposure drafts for the Governments Housing Legislative Package: Housing Australia Future Fund Bill, National Housing Supply and Affordability Council Bill, and Amendment Bill.

Domestic Violence NSW (DVNSW) endorses in full the submission and recommendations made by the Homelessness NSW in their submission to the consultation. Further, DVNSW supports the work and advocacy of Homelessness Australia in their submission to the consultation.

About Domestic Violence NSW

Domestic Violence NSW (DVNSW) is the peak body for specialist domestic and family violence services in NSW. We have over 130 member services across NSW.

DVNSW members represent the diversity of specialist services working in NSW to support women, families and communities impacted by domestic and family violence. Our member organisations include crisis and refuge services, transitional accommodation and community housing providers, Aboriginal controlled organisations and specialist culturally and linguistically diverse organisations, men's behaviour change programs and networks, specialist women's legal support services, women and children's support services, women's health centres and Safe at Home programs.

DVNSW works to improve policy and legislative responses to domestic and family violence and to eliminate domestic and family violence through advocacy, partnerships and the promotion of good practice. We sit on over 85 advisory groups and committees and provide regular, informed advice to all levels of government. We are a member of the National Women's Safety Alliance and work alongside other peak organisations such as Safe and Equal in Victoria.

Housing Legislative Package

Domestic and family violence (DFV) is the leading cause of homelessness for women in Australia (AIHW 2020), with older women in particular facing an increased risk of homelessness,

predominantly due to family violence and financial difficulties (Australian Human Rights Commission, 2019). On census night in 2016 there were an estimated 6,866 women over 50 across Australia who were homeless – this is a 31 per cent increase in five years since 2011 (ABS, 2016). In the current cost-of-living crisis, the housing crisis is at an all-time high, with the asking rent on a three-bedroom home increasing by 13.9 per cent in the last 12 months – the purchase price on the same property exploded by over 21.4 per cent (SQM Research, 2022). People from marginalised cohorts experience additional barriers to accessing homeless support and are often at greater risk of becoming homeless due to combined intersectional factors. This cohort includes Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities; regional, rural, and remote communities; people with disability; older refugee and migrant women; and LGBTQIA+ people.

As such, many of the 25,000 social housing dwellings that need to be built per year will be for women and children escaping domestic and family violence. DVNSW join Homelessness NSW in welcoming the \$10 billion investment in the Australia Future Fund, however, agree that an ongoing sustained investment in social and affordable housing is imperative to preventing the current homelessness crisis from worsening.

DVNSW support the recommendations of HNSW to:

- Increase the initial funding beyond the \$10 billion into the Housing Australia Future Fund to ensure there is a sustained investment in social and affordable housing at scale
- Include a ‘purpose’ in the legislation setting a target for social housing as a percentage of total residential dwellings
- Mandate that State Governments should have to match funding that they request from the Housing Australia Future Fund
- Enhance the reporting requirements of the Housing Australia Future Fund
- Ensure the National Housing and Supply Council has adequate representation and is informed by people with lived experience of homelessness.

Thank you for considering our submission to this consultation. If you have any questions, please contact CEO Delia Donovan on ceo@dvnsw.org.au or Policy, Advocacy and Research Manager, Renata Field on renata@dvnsw.org.au.

Yours sincerely



Delia Donovan , Chief Executive Officer, DVNSW