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Vinnies says housing inquiry recommendations a 'blueprint' for both sides of state politics

The St Vincent de Paul Society says that key recommendations included in a recent report by the NSW Legislative Council Select Committee on Social, Public and Affordable Housing provide a blueprint for the future, and should be adopted by both sides of politics as we head into an election year.

The Society is pleased that a number of the recommendations it made to the Inquiry earlier this year have formed part of the final report. These include: that the NSW Government invest all proceeds from the sale of public housing properties in a dedicated fund for the purpose of creating new supply of social, public and affordable housing; that the NSW Government expedite the transfer of public housing properties to community housing providers via long term leases; the inclusion of affordable housing targets for local councils; and the establishment of a new community housing sector advisory committee.

St Vincent de Paul Society NSW CEO, Michael Perusco commends the Committee for the recommendations and believes that both sides of state government should see them as a blueprint for addressing the affordable housing crisis.

"The report lays out tangible actions that will have positive impacts of the housing affordability crisis in NSW. As we head into an election year, we believe that these recommendations and the issue of affordable housing should be put firmly on the public and political agenda," says Mr Perusco.

The Society also supports the recommendation that social housing should be seen as a form of infrastructure investment, and advocates any funds raised from the proposed sale of electricity networks in NSW should, in part, be invested into social and affordable housing initiatives.

The Society is present in 420 communities across the state with members visiting almost 600 people in crisis every day. This places the Society in a unique position to understand the real impacts of the housing affordability crisis.

St Vincent de Paul Society NSW President Ray Reynolds says, "People are telling us very clearly that unaffordable housing and rents are putting enormous pressure on their ability to keep their heads above water."

The Society says that ensuring more affordable housing is vital if people are to escape the cycle of disadvantage and homelessness.

Media: Yolanda Saiz on 0417 446 430