



MEDIA RELEASE

14 May 2008

**National Shelter:
Election Commitments met but battlers short changed**

While the Rudd Government has honoured their pre-election commitments in the 08/09 federal budget, a massive hole in the area of Public housing is visible, leaving Australian battlers to fight their own battles.

National Shelter commends the Government on its dedication to the National Rental Affordability Scheme, First Home Saver Accounts, The Housing Affordability Fund and homelessness measures, however criticises its obligation to some of the most pressing issues facing housing at this time.

Chair of National Shelter, Adrian Pisarski, has said that while all areas of housing need to be addressed, Public Housing is currently under the most stress and has been blatantly disregarded in this budget.

“Public Housing has been completely ignored by this Government,” he said.

In previous statements by Minister Plibersek, it has been acknowledged that the past ten years of neglect has created the public housing crisis Australia is facing, however the Rudd Government has provided nothing to address that chronic shortage.

“I’m not sure how the Government expects to alleviate housing pressures if they pay no attention to the system which is under the most stress.

“We had expected that an ALP Government would do more for the most disadvantaged,” Mr Pisarski said.

In addition to this, National Shelter is also concerned that spending allocated to Indigenous housing and the provision of \$1.6 Billion promised in February this year has been short changed.

“\$800 million worth of previous commitments does not appear in expenditure papers,” Mr Pisarski said.

National Shelter welcomes the Budget for 2008/2009, however believes an ALP Government could have boosted Public and Indigenous Housing without provoking an inflationary effect.

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