

Title of Resolution:

Safe affordable housing for women and children

Wording of Resolution:

VIEW Clubs of Australia call on State and Federal governments to increase funding and resources to provide for an increase in public and social housing; to meet the desperate shortage of accommodation to assist women and children in crisis and provide safe, affordable housing for the homeless and victims of domestic violence.

Rationale:

Homelessness has a traumatic impact on young children growing up. A safe and stable home is essential to provide the security women and children need to access education and achievement health.

Arguments for the resolution:

- Australia has a major shortfall of social and affordable housing.
- Social and affordable housing should be regarded as a key element of our national infrastructure, supporting the basic need of all people to have a safe, secure place to call home.
- Everyone has the right to live in a safe environment.
- Where there is a shortage of suitable accommodation for families ready to rejoin the community there will be a corresponding shortage of refuge space. The longer families are forced to wait out their time in a refuge the less capacity there is for new admissions.
- The move to a family home increases a family's confidence in their own ability and enables them to resume friendships and re-establish community networks.
- We need a National Housing Strategy, led by the Federal Government, that brings together State and Local Governments, Community Housing Providers, private and philanthropic investors, and the NGO sector to expand the supply of social and affordable housing.
- The number of women and children living in cars or couch surfing has increased significantly in recent years.
- The incidence of domestic violence has also increased, and the lack of safe alternative housing for women and children contributes to this.

Arguments against the resolution:

- Governments have limited funding
- The rental income States and Territories receive is "insufficient to support critical stock redevelopment, or cover the cost of maintaining existing stock.
- As properties age and the costs of property and tenancy management increase government housing agencies face significant operating deficits; making public housing unsustainable