



### **Using empty properties to offer short-term housing for those in need**

Have your say on how to improve access to existing accommodation for social housing or what other options could be available to help address the current shortage across New South Wales. This is the aim of a new inquiry announced today by the Committee on Community Services. Your feedback can help contribute toward more accommodation options in your community.

Vacant buildings that are suitable could be repurposed to offer short-term social housing to people who require temporary accommodation. Repurposing empty accommodation or other appropriate buildings could lead to a large increase in the amount of social and community housing that is available.

"There are empty buildings out there and there are people in need of a safe roof over their heads. We want to remove the barriers that are stopping these buildings being used as social housing. We're sure there are also other innovative options to increase the amount of available housing which we are keen to hear about," announced Wendy Lindsay, Member for East Hills and Chair of the Committee on Community Services.

The Committee is looking at the provision of community housing, and also options for crisis, key-worker and other short-term accommodation models. It will also inquire into the accountability of registered community housing providers.

"We invite all agencies and organisations who work to provide and support social housing to make a submission. We are also keen to hear from people who are living in and providing community housing on ways to improve the situation when people have complaints or concerns about properties. This will help us identify any improvements we can make to increase the number of properties available and the experience of those living in them," said Ms Lindsay.

More information, including the inquiry's terms of reference and how to make a submission, can be found on the Committee's webpage.

The closing date for submissions is Friday, 30 July.

For enquiries please contact Ms Wendy Lindsay MP, Committee Chair on (02) 9772 2774