

HOI09/3564

Glenda Baker
Senior Council Officer
NSW Parliament
Standing Committee on Social Issues
Parliament House, Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Ms Baker

I refer to your letter to Ms Maura Boland, Executive Director, Policy and Strategy, following Housing NSW's appearance at the *Inquiry into homelessness and low cost rental accommodation* on 30 June 2009, requesting responses to questions on notice from the Standing Committee on Social Issues, and review of the transcript of evidence from the appearance.

Please find attached Housing NSW's response to the questions taken on notice at the hearing, and the additional questions on notice from the Committee.

Please also find attached some suggested corrections to the transcript of evidence.

I would like to clarify one of the comments made at the appearance about the State Plan. The State Plan does not directly commit to Housing NSW developing a specific 'affordable housing strategy'. However, the State Plan outlined some potential new directions for the NSW Government in addressing housing affordability problems, for which Housing NSW has taken the lead. In particular, the State Plan foreshadowed the significantly expanded role for the community housing sector in the provision of affordable housing and the new National Affordable Housing Agreement.

I am pleased to advise that the NSW Homelessness Action Plan 2009 - 2014 *A Way Home: Reducing Homelessness in NSW* was released on 2 August 2009. A copy of the Action Plan is enclosed. The Action Plan outlines a vision and strategic directions for reducing homelessness in NSW, along with priority areas for action over the next five years.

It may also interest you to know that the Premier and Minister for Planning announced the new Affordable Rental Housing – State Environmental Planning Policy (SEPP) on 1 August 2009. The SEPP is designed to increase the amount and diversity of affordable housing in NSW and aims to better encourage home owners, social housing providers and developers to invest and create new affordable rental housing. Further information on the SEPP is available on the Department of Planning's website – www.planning.nsw.gov.au.

If you have any enquiries, please contact Ms Christine Foran, Acting Manager, Housing Assistance Policy, by telephone on (02) 8753 8607 or by email at Christine.Foran@housing.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



Mike Allen
Director General

6.8.09