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MEDIA RELEASE

St Vincent de Paul National Council welcomes Victorian Government's leadership on social housing

Claire Victory, National President of the St Vincent de Paul Society in Australia has congratulated the Victorian Government on its extraordinary commitment of \$5.3 billion to build more than 12,000 public housing dwellings over the next four years.

Ms Victory said the absence of funding for social housing in the Federal Budget was a missed opportunity.

'Social housing is a shared responsibility across state and territory governments and the Federal Government.

'I welcome the Victorian Government's leadership on the issue and encourage other states and territories to follow suit.

'In addition to individual commitment from the states and territories, I repeat the call for the Federal Government to establish a social housing fund of \$10 billion to augment the efforts of the states and territories to address the chronic shortage of safe, affordable housing in Australia.

'There's a shortfall of over 400,000 dwellings nationally. We need a strategic, consistent and long-term approach to tackling housing stress and homelessness in Australia.

'Long-term means 25-30 years.

'Access to safe, secure, affordable housing is widely recognised as a vital determinant of wellbeing – it is associated with better outcomes in health, education and employment, as well as economic and social participation,' Ms Victory said.

The St Vincent de Paul Society in Australia consists of 60,000 members and volunteers who operate on the ground through over 1,000 groups located in local communities across the country.

MEDIA CONTACT: Judith Tokley 0408 824 306 / 0475 068 209 or media@svdp.org.au

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