



29th September 2009

National shelter calls for across the board reduction in public housing rents

Chairperson of National Shelter Adrian Pisarski has called for an across the board reduction in public housing rents as an alternative to quarantining rents for tenants that received the pension increase.

State and Federal governments yesterday announced a twelve month quarantine for aged pensioners and disability support pensioners, which will result in a select number of public housing tenants paying below 25% of their income on rent.

“Quarantining rents for those who received the pension increase is unfair on those who still pay 25% and will distort the housing system,” Mr Pisarski said.

“Governments instead should fund an across the board reduction to include single parents and unemployed people who did not receive the income increase,” he continued.

Mr Pisarski also said that the Federal government should also balance this with an increase in commonwealth rent assistance to support pensioners and others who are struggling to find affordable accommodation in the private rental market.

“People who live in public housing are the more fortunate ones compared to people in the same situation paying rents in the private market.”

“The Federal government should also assist pensioners who are in many cases pay more than 70% or 80% of their income in rent in the private rental market,” he said.

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