



C/- PO Box 6207 Halifax Street Adelaide SA 5000

Email: [adrian.pisarski@shelter.org.au](mailto:adrian.pisarski@shelter.org.au)

0417975270

The Hon Scott Morrison MP  
Prime Minister  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600  
Cc The Hon Michael Sukkar MP  
Assistant Treasurer  
Minister for Housing  
Minister for Homelessness  
Social and Community Housing  
Friday, 23 April 2021

Dear Prime Minister,

We write to seek an opportunity to meet with you to discuss the future of affordable and social housing.

As you are aware National Shelter is an established peak body representing the interests of low-income households, community housing providers and specialist homelessness services. National Shelter appreciated talking with you when you held the DSS and Treasury roles and experienced you as open to consideration of well-developed proposals, as evidenced by your establishment of NHFIC and your consideration of affordable housing in the budget when Treasurer.

We haven't been afforded similar access since you appointed The Hon. Michael Sukkar M.P. as Housing Minister with responsibility for social housing and homelessness. We have appreciated being able to discuss proposals and update the Minister's staff on COVID related matters and new proposals yet have been unable to secure a meeting with the Minister himself despite repeated requests. You will appreciate that meeting advisers is not the same as meeting Ministers themselves and despite the considerable costs we have incurred in coming to Canberra for that purpose, we have not as yet achieved that objective.

We appreciate Ministers schedules are crowded and no one is guaranteed access, however with low-income household growth, due to rising unemployment, there is a higher need for social and affordable housing during a time when production of social housing and affordable housing is declining. We believe these issues are of national significance and the ability to discuss solutions is vital. We do not propose to prescribe solutions to governments but are constantly working to develop data, research, intelligence and propositions as a basis for developing potential solutions, an essential component of which is face to face meetings with Ministers, central agencies, officials and advisers.

Our national approach combined with the targeted approach to state governments by our members at state/territory levels enables a genuinely broad approach to guide and inform our thinking and we believe is helpful to commonwealth consideration of ensuring housing solutions are shared among governments of all levels.

We are likely to be back in Canberra during the June sitting session and would appreciate the opportunity to hold meetings with yourself, your staff and responsible Ministers.