



Shelter WA Update November 2, 2007

**In this release:**

## ***Widespread support for more public housing***

Polling results released by National Shelter today show that 63% of Australians believe Governments do not do enough to support public housing. Releasing the poll results National Shelter Chairperson, Mr Adrian Pisarski said, "This poll is a wakeup call, we have neglected public housing for too long."

National Shelter commissioned this poll of nearly 700 to test levels of support for public housing to improve options for households disadvantaged in the private market.

"Public housing has become a political football with the Commonwealth blaming States and States blaming the Commonwealth for cuts, while the people want all governments to spend more." Mr Pisarski added. The poll results show very strong support for government and community housing providers, whilst only 4% of those polled see a role for real estate managers.

"The poll results contradict the Howard Government's proposal to tender out public housing provision to the private sector."

"The results also show the people want targets for public housing with 52% saying they would view parties with targets more favourably." Mr Pisarski added.

28% of respondents also said they would change their vote to a party promising to expand public housing. The results are listed on page 2

### ***Implications of Morgan Poll***

The results indicate that the public are supportive of more government funding for public housing from both the Commonwealth and State governments, particularly funds that target the growing public housing waiting list.

The poll results also indicate there is considerable public support for political parties willing to develop a long term plan including growth strategies for public housing. Some of those strategies could be applied to metro and regional areas which have a significant number of people employed as key sector workers. Some of those workers are in receipt of the minimum Federal wage (currently \$528 per week) and are struggling to pay very high market rents.

In general Shelter WA views this Morgan Poll as showing there is considerable support within the Australian public for more funding to increase the supply of public housing. The Poll was a random sample of Australia households across a wide age group with a male/female ratio of 50/50 participants. Given that the proportion of public housing in Australia is at an all time low of less than 5% and owner-occupied housing is high at 70%, the general awareness of public housing is encouraging.

The majority of Australia households are most likely related to and/or have friends which are experiencing housing stress in the current housing market. This is probably why public housing (which is widely known as an affordable housing tenure), is seen in more positive terms than has otherwise been the case.

<b>In your opinion, do you think that the Federal Government is doing enough to provide public housing for the most disadvantaged?</b>					
1		180	26%		YES
2		434	63%		NO
<b>Who should allocate and manage housing for people who are unable to afford private housing?</b>					
		<b>Govt/</b>		<b>Departments of Housing</b>	
<b>Non Real Estate Agents</b>				<b>Non Profit Organisations</b>	
1		463	67%		DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING
2		169	24%		NON GOVERNMENT/ NON PROFIT ORGANISATIONS
<b>If a political party set targets for improved and/ or more public housing, would you look at them more favourably in the upcoming Federal election?</b>					
1		360	52%		YES
2		291	42%		NO
<b>In casting your vote in the upcoming Federal election, will a promise to expand or improve public housing influence your decision in who you vote for?</b>					
1		192	28%		YES
2		457	66%		NO