

August 4, 2020

Need to address why more older women are facing insecure housing

Centre for Non-Violence has signed up to the national Everybody's Home campaign, which is calling on all governments to work together to fix Australia's housing crisis.

Everybody's Home is a network of Australian housing, homelessness, community and health organisations, along with local government and individuals who are committed to ending homelessness.

Coinciding with Homelessness Week, the coalition is campaigning for

- Support for first home buyers, to make the system fairer for Australians wanting to buy a home;
- A national housing strategy, including more low-cost properties and more social and affordable rental homes;
- A better deal for renters, including abolishing 'no grounds' evictions and unfair rent increases;
- Immediate relief for Australians in chronic rental stress, including increasing Commonwealth rent assistance;
- A plan to end homelessness by 2030.

With women aged over 55 the fastest growing cohort of people experiencing homelessness across Australia, Centre for Non-Violence chief executive officer Margaret Augerinos says we must do more to address the reasons why there is an increasing number of older women facing insecure housing.

"Throughout their lives, women experience unequal pay, may take time out of the workforce to raise children or perform other caring roles, accrue less superannuation and are often employed in casual roles in female-dominated industries where wages and conditions are inadequate" she said.

"To compound this, women are over-represented in family violence statistics.

"Women may be experiencing economic abuse in their home, where they have limited access to finances.

“They are also often faced with very difficult decisions about whether to stay in a home where they are being abused, or leaving and facing a future of possible financial insecurity, and homelessness.

“Homelessness does not discriminate. Too many women from all demographics are carrying the weight of economic inequity - and that we are seeing so many left in hardship in their later years is shameful.”

Loddon Mallee Homelessness Network coordinator, Mellissa Edwards, says long-term housing solutions are needed for many women, children, men and young people across central Victoria.

“There is a significant lack of affordable housing,” she said.

“Escaping domestic or family violence is likely to have a significant impact on a person’s financial position. It often results in a cycle of poverty which is difficult to escape from.

“Access to secure, affordable long-term housing is vital.”

Ms Augerinos will tomorrow join an Everybody’s Home live webinar, hosted by the Loddon Campaspe Homelessness Alliance and Haven; Home Safe. Details can be found, [here](#).

Information on the Everybody’s Home campaign can be found at:

<https://everybodyshome.com.au/>

Centre for Non-Violence covers the Loddon region - which includes the City of Greater Bendigo and the Central Goldfields, Mt Alexander, Macedon Ranges, Loddon and Campaspe shires. Centre for Non-Violence can be contacted on 1800 884 292 | The 24-hour statewide safe steps family violence crisis response line is 1800 015 188 | Men’s Referral Service 1300 766 491 | In an emergency, call 000 |

For information, visit: www.cnv.org.au/we-are-here-to-help