



Andrew Wilkie MP
INDEPENDENT MEMBER FOR DENISON

20 AUG 2013

The Hon Kevin Andrews MP
Shadow Minister for Families, Housing and Human Services
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Mr Andrews *Kevin,*

It is my understanding that the Federal Government has waived South Australia's housing debt of \$320 million. I ask the Coalition to commit that the same be done for Tasmania's housing debt, which is approximately \$209 million, if successful in the upcoming election.

Housing Tasmania receives \$32 million each year from the Federal Government as part of the National Affordable Housing Agreement. Of that, \$16.8 million is immediately returned as debt repayment leaving Housing Tasmania with only half of its allocated funds to spend on affordable housing.

The funding shortfall presents two immediate problems. First, the current waiting list for public housing stands at over 3,000 resulting in many vulnerable and disadvantaged Tasmanians being forced into homelessness. Second, flagship Federal Government initiatives such as DisabilityCare and Partners in Recovery cannot be delivered effectively because they assume all clients have access to long-term affordable housing. Cancellation of Tasmania's housing debt would go a long way to end this baffling incongruity.

I call upon the Coalition to make an election promise to waive Tasmania's housing debt. The precedent has just been set in South Australia.

Yours sincerely

Andrew Wilkie MP
Independent Member for Denison