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National Housing and Homelessness Plan long overdue for regional families

Mallee Family Care (MFC), a leading community service organisation in the Mallee region, has welcomed the National Housing and Homelessness Bill 2024 (No. 2) which would require adequate housing to be treated as a human right for every Australian.

MFC CEO Teresa Jayet said the bill would mandate that the Federal Government make a long-term plan to transform Australia's dysfunctional housing system.

"We strongly support the goal of this legislation to ensure that everyone in Australia has an adequate home," Ms Jayet said.

"MFC also supports the proposed National Housing Consumer Council and National Housing and Homelessness Advocate to ensure a transparent and consultative approach to the development and implementation of the 10-year plan.

"MFC has always believed that housing is a basic human right and a prerequisite for participation in all other areas of society. This bill reflects that reality by putting in place practical steps to start addressing the housing and homelessness crisis in Australia," Ms Jayet said.

In a detailed response to the Senate committee overseeing the bill, MFC highlighted the importance of including regional voices and empowering regional communities in all aspects of the proposed legislation. The MFC submission argued that the bill should specifically address the needs of these communities by ensuring regional representation is guaranteed on the proposed National Housing Consumer Council.

The submission also highlights the need to include the voices of families and children with experience of child protection and domestic violence, people with disability and Indigenous communities, as well as ensuring gender and age diversity.

"Explicit recognition of the unique housing challenges in rural and regional Australia, along with direct representation of regional communities on the National Housing Consumer Council, would help ensure the 10-year plan delivers for the one third of Australians who live outside our major cities.

"It would also help address the fragmentation of services experienced by border communities like the Mallee, by encouraging information sharing and strengthening collaboration and coordination across jurisdictions.



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“MFC believes that every Australian should have access to safe and secure housing. We commend Senator David Pocock and Kylea Tink MP for their joint effort in addressing this critical and long overdue issue and call on the major parties to support this important legislation,” Ms Jayet said.

A full copy of Mallee Family Care’s submission to the National Housing and Homelessness Bill 2024 (No. 2) is available at malleefamilycare.org.au

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