**MEDIA RELEASE**

**Smorgasbord pre-election budget!**

*For immediate release*

The 2022 NSW State Budget offered handouts to many but band-aids for some fundamental social issues.

The Faith Housing Alliance supports improvements in pre-school and the care of women, but children and families need housing security for NSW to have healthy communities.

“This need is much deeper than simply giving out vouchers - something families reduced to living in a tent or a car will attest to during this freezing winter, said the CEO of the Alliance, Rose Thomson.

The First Home Equity scheme is interesting but will not address the rental affordability crisis. When it comes to dealing with housing and homelessness there is a critical need for a plan to address a crisis, not interim solutions that may or may not have impact.

What help was provided in the 2022 ‘reform’ budget for those experiencing homelessness or those who are entering the homeless community for the first time?

When there is a scarcity of homes for rent - and you can’t afford a rental - there was no answer or help. These citizens do not have savings to participate in a first home equity scheme.

Too many people translate ‘homelessness’ as sleeping on the street. But many forget about those sleeping in cars, on couches and mattress surfing with friends or family, or those having to live with their children in tents.

The Faith Housing Alliance appreciates the $300 million to upgrade 15,800 social homes – but these are upgrades, not new supply and should be part of asset management plans. Was there consideration of whether these upgrades should be replaced with new builds to increase overall supply? We also appreciate the 120 new social homes for rough sleepers under the Together Home Transition program.

“This is nowhere near the mark to help overall rental affordability and rising housing insecurity, which sees too many families and individuals continuing on a downward spiral into homelessness and living with high anxiety and fear.” said Rose Thomson.

We are proud of the way our members show their faith in action – committed to housing for all. It is time for new funding for new supply - to help them all in their incredible work as community housing providers!

The NSW State government missed a great opportunity to fund and partner with all the magnificent CHPs across our State – including our regional areas – to make a real difference in rental affordability and security to protect the wellbeing of too many in our community.

It is not too late for the government to act.

A safe, healthy, secure and affordable home is a basic human right.

**Media contact**

Annette McHugh – FHA Communications and Engagement Lead

E | Annette@fha.org.au M | 0458 065 883