

Draft Greater Sydney Region Plan

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Submission content: I volunteer with St Vincent de Paul on the Central Coast. When we visit those who need our assistance, we ask them about their income and the cost of rent. We know that the recommended percentage that they should pay before rental stress sets in is 30%. Only those in Housing NSW (or equivalent) meet this level. Most of those seeking our support pay between 60% and 80%. There are reasons why these people stay in these expensive dwelling but the major reason is their is no alternative. Private rental cost are leading to homelessness in a few cases. This can be fixed by a willingness for organisations like yours to advocate for change. It is then up to governments, both state and local, to implement change for the benefit of the vulnerable. There are plenty of models where a legislated percentage of developments are affordable. I look forward to the Greater Sydney Commission supporting an affordable housing policy.