



**Sharon Grierson MP**  
Federal Member for Newcastle

**Media Release**  
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### **Labor to Tackle Housing Affordability**

Member for Newcastle Sharon Grierson says Kevin Rudd's *New Directions Paper on Housing Affordability* puts forward options to help people in Newcastle reduce their mortgage burden and help those not in the property market to save for their first home.

"People in Newcastle do find it difficult to get into the property market," Ms Grierson said.

"Analysis of last year's Census shows that Newcastle has one of the lowest proportions of people paying off a home (112<sup>th</sup> of 150 federal electorates) and one of the highest proportions of renters (24<sup>th</sup>)."

"Kevin Rudd's idea of giving incentives to help people save for a deposit would greatly help young people get into the housing market."

"It would also mean first homebuyers wouldn't have to rely on such large mortgages."

"With the cost of living increasing, and more than 1,000 people going into bankruptcy in the Hunter so far this financial year, Labor's plans would help make mortgages more affordable."

Labor will convene a National Housing Affordability Summit later this month, to discuss options including:

- Policies to assist first home buyers to save for and attain a foothold in the housing market;
- The need for housing policy coordination so that enough houses are built;
- Reform of government planning frameworks to reduce costs;
- Strategies to reduce the cost of development and supply of housing;
- Strategies to increase the supply of affordable private rental properties;
- Reform of the Commonwealth Rent Assistance scheme; and
- Proposals to boost the supply of social, emergency and Indigenous housing.

"These options are all part of Kevin Rudd and Labor's fresh thinking for the future of Newcastle and our nation."

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