

**DAVID HARRIS MP  
LABOR MEMBER FOR WYONG  
SHADOW MINISTER FOR THE CENTRAL COAST**

**YASMIN CATLEY MP  
LABOR MEMBER FOR SWANSEA**

**DAVID MEHAN MP  
LABOR MEMBER FOR THE ENTRANCE**

**LIESL TESCH MP  
LABOR MEMBER FOR GOSFORD**

### **Ticks & Crosses during Homelessness Week**

This year, Homelessness Week, which runs from August 1 to 7, also marks a new low for housing access on the Central Coast.

Rental housing vacancy rates are at record lows, while median rents have hit a 10-year high. ✘

And after just over ten years of Liberal National State Government, there are 200 less social housing dwellings (public and community housing) to house those who cannot find a rental property in the private market. ✘

To make matters worse, Central Coast Local Health District has been forced to cancel its COVID-19 vaccination for homeless people on the Coast after the state government ordered its stock of Pfizer vaccine be sent to Sydney hotspots. ✘

Fortunately for our region, Central Coast Council has progressed its Affordable Housing Strategy including appointing a local housing officer and developing a protocol for managing homeless people sleeping on the street. ✓

Meanwhile, our local specialist homelessness services (SHSs), such as Coast Shelter, continue to do good work. ✓

Labor MPs also noted the work of staff at the Department of Communities & Justice who manage public housing tenancies and the emergency accommodation system on the Coast with inadequate funding. ✓

Swansea MP Yasmin Catley said “Our community is experiencing a housing crisis due to the Liberal Government’s overreliance on the private rental market to prop up its underinvestment in social housing. It is time the Government invested in social housing on the Coast to address the rising rates of homelessness.”

Wyong MP David Harris "Central Coast residents are suffering a housing and rental market which is putting pressure on families to keep a roof over their head, local services are battling to keep up."

The Entrance MP David Mehan said “Ten years of Liberal Government have made housing less secure and less affordable on the Central Coast.”

Gosford MP Liesl Tesch said “The rental crisis on the Central Coast further highlights the government’s failure to proactively invest in social and affordable housing, placing more people in risk of homelessness than ever before in our community.”.

**ENDS**

**DATE: Thursday, 5 August 2021**

**MEDIA CONTACT:**

**MEHAN – 0419 973 858**

**CATLEY – 0488 059 927**

**HARRIS – 0429 935 114**

**TESCH – 0413 730 136**

<https://homelessnessaustralia.org.au/new-data-shows-federal-government-housing-and-homelessness-spending-cut-by-1-billion-in-a-decade-as-rents-hit-all-time-highs-in-homelessness-week/>