



**SACOSS**

*South Australian Council  
of Social Service*

Justice, opportunity and shared wealth for all South Australians

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# Media Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

**26 November 2009**

## **Call for affordable housing gets personal at Parliament House**

**On Monday 30 November Members of Parliament will come face to face with the personal stories of housing crisis and homelessness that affect over 8,000 South Australians \*.**

“This is our ***Affordable Housing Advocacy Day***”, says Ross Womersley, Executive Director of SACOSS, “an official event of SACOSS’ *Create a Better State* campaign. It will bring together people who would not normally be involved in politics, expose them to the political process, and allow them to ask questions and engage with what would normally be an unknown environment.”

“The day is in two parts,” explains Womersley, “in the morning participants will hear presentations from key housing representatives from the major parties, and from key representatives in the health and community services sector.”

“In the afternoon, participants break into small groups and will meet with politicians and decision-makers individually”.

“The right to decent, safe, clean housing is a fundamental human right for all people”, continues Womersley. “‘Housing’ issues are more than just a narrow focus on ‘bricks and mortar’. There are a wide range of issues connected to housing such as affordability, location, and proximity to public transport and services, that all underpin the overall health and cohesion of a community.”

“Reductions in public housing stock due to reduced state and federal funding mean that waiting lists have exploded in both quantity and duration.”

“If the current lack of investment in social housing continues, we can expect to see large numbers of vulnerable and disadvantaged South Australians without a roof over the head, placing immense pressure on an already-stretched social housing system, as well as any and all community services offering support to people and families seeking affordable and appropriate housing.”

“The Law and Justice Advocacy Day SACOSS held in August this year was a great success, with all politicians involved agreeing that the personal stories they heard encouraged them to take a greater interest in those issues — let us hope that the Affordable Housing Advocacy Day will achieve the same.”

Download the Affordable Housing Fact Sheet and Principles Paper, and tell us your story, at [www.createabetterstate.wordpress.com](http://www.createabetterstate.wordpress.com)

\* Source: Chamberlain, C & MacKenzie, D (2009) *Counting the Homeless - South Australia*, Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, Canberra.