

<i>Forum Details</i>	<u>Housing & Homelessness Forum - 4th March 2019</u>	<u>Children & Families Forum - 12th March 2019</u>
<i>Background Information for Candidates</i>	<p>Changes to the Residential Tenancies Act are required to make renting fair for those priced out of home ownership:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ remove no-grounds evictions ○ limit rent increases to once annually, and with reasonable caps ○ introduce anti-discrimination protections <p>New residential developments have a unique role to play in supporting vulnerable groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Social housing construction can stimulate local jobs in areas already earmarked for housing (such as Warnervale Town Centre) but are not being activated fast enough. ○ Coordination is required between Council, Joint Regional Planning Panel and State Government to enforce & monitor 15% (private land) & 30% (government land) minimum benchmarks for Social & Affordable Housing dwellings in all new developments and rezonings, plus ensure Neighbourhood Centres feature prominently in new development masterplans. ○ Create local jobs and enhanced sense of community in our town centres with catalyst projects such as Housing First or Youth Foyer. 	<p>In order to reduce the burden on crisis services, and limit the need for early intervention services, we need inclusive and appropriate (for age, local needs) <i>Prevention</i> education in all schools covering:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ gender (in early years), then healthy relationships ○ Aboriginal culture and the impact of colonisation ○ acceptance of diversity and uniqueness ○ living skills including household budgeting, being a parent, mental health, healthy living (exercise and diet) and managing social isolation <p>In addition, wrap-around (where the client is supported by a range of professionals with specific expertise) <i>Early Interventions</i> are needed coming into, during and coming out of life-changing intersections. Such Early Interventions must be designed to be inclusive of culture, gender, disability and other unique attributes as (importantly) these attributes are more likely to contribute to adverse outcomes for disadvantaged communities. Key intersections that should be fully supported include:</p> <p><i>Family and Community Services</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Risk of Harm reporting, child protection system, out-of-home-care, restoration ○ Social Housing, rent and tenancy support programs <p><i>Justice</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Diversionary programs ○ Prison and juvenile detention ○ Court Assistance case management <p><i>Health</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Pregnancy and birth - first 1,000 days ○ Hospital discharge including Emergency Department and Mental Health units

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<i>Background Information for Candidates (cont)</i>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Group homes <p><i>Education</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ All transition points from home-to-preschool through Uni/TAFE-to-workforce ○ Suspensions and unexplained absences <p>Supporting refugees and children of vulnerable temporary visa holders</p> <p>Further, the commissioning of such programs cannot be done in isolation. Co-morbidity among disadvantaged and vulnerable groups is typical, and our service delivery models should be coordinated (with Government support) to reflect this.</p> <p>Accordingly, our sector (and the disadvantaged communities we represent) must be engaged in reform and ongoing service delivery development at the local level, recognising that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ existing interagency networks are robust and armed with the knowledge to create impact ○ Neighbourhood and Community Centres play a crucial role in developing, delivering, collaborating on, or referring to the diverse range of place-based solutions that community need
<i>Expert presenters</i>	<p>Karen Walsh, CEO of Shelter NSW</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 34% increase in homelessness across the state between 2011 and 2016 census ○ 74% increase in people living in overcrowded conditions (ie not enough bedrooms, couch surfing) ○ 76% of low income households in rental stress (some as high as 60% of their income on rent alone) 	<p>Julie Hourigan-Ruse, CEO of Fams</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Child protection system is failing to keep up with demand ○ Child protection helpline is working and the “village is doing its job” of reporting children that appear to be at risk ○ 6,100 children are at Risk of Significant Harm on the Central Coast, an increase of 57% over five years

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<i>Expert presenters (cont)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Despite windfalls from housing market boom, there is insufficient investment in solutions ○ Peaks calling for 5,000 social housing dwellings p.a. for next 20 years ○ Plus commitment to affordable housing for middle income earners (key workers) ○ Particularly vulnerable cohorts such as older single women ○ Redevelopment of former social housing estates often results in people pushed out of their communities and unable to afford to move back in ○ Coast under further pressure from people pushed out of Sydney market <p>Jemima Mowbray, Policy Officer, Tenants Union NSW</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Central Coast Tenants Advice & Advocacy Service is available locally to support renters ○ ¼ of Central Coast households are renters. 46% are families, 1 in 3 have been renting for more than 10 years. ○ Old view of renters as being young people renting for a short time before buying own home, but emerging trend of lifetime renters who become highly vulnerable as they get older ○ \$408 median weekly rent on Central Coast - imagine a single income household trying to meet the cost of living with this commitment ○ Affordability is further impacted by broader cost of housing eg no access to solar panels, poor maintenance (eg insulation) leading to higher electricity bills ○ Renter surveys: 50% experienced discrimination, 83% not on fixed term, do not report problems for fear of “revenge” eviction (68%) or rent increase (44%) ○ Discussed Make Renting Fair campaign 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Only 27% of those reports receive a face-to-face response from FACS - what is happening to those other children? ○ Why don't we have the data to understand exactly what is happening for these families so we can deliver appropriate responses to them ○ Further concerns about one-size-fits-all and off-the-shelf programs being forced upon communities who don't have a chance to choose or innovate and deliver programs that will achieve the best outcomes for their local circumstances

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<i>Candidate questions</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What steps will your government take to Make Renting Fair and provide additional protections for vulnerable renters? 2. How will you advocate for our region to receive a proportion (that reflects our high proportion of low income earners) of the 5,000 new Social Housing dwellings per annum as proposed by our Peak housing organisations? 3. How will your government work with the Joint Regional Planning Panel and Central Coast Council to ensure new developments and re-zonings meet the needs of vulnerable groups? 4. What role will you play in important community-building catalyst projects in our region such as Youth Foyers or Housing First developments? 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. how will your Government increase investment in Prevention & Early Intervention in the short term, knowing that the reduction in demand for Crisis response may take 10-20 years? 2. How will your Government implement a <u>new</u> system of local strategic planning and coordination that is empowering, inclusive, informed, collaborative and accountable for vulnerable and disadvantaged people?
<i>Candidate responses</i>	<p>David Harris - Labor</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Remove no grounds evictions and work with sector to develop list of acceptable grounds ○ Introduce 5 year tenancy agreements to provide greater certainty and 12 month terms as the default ○ Ombudsman to support people living in mobile home parks (owning or renting) ○ Undertake audit of government land and activate with 25% affordable housing benchmark ○ 15% affordable housing benchmark for private developments. Affordability is locked for 10 years. ○ Noted importance of mixed tenure developments ○ Support to be provided for people living in social housing - example of young person experiencing poor mental health and older neighbor being fearful 	<p>David Harris - Labor</p> <p>David cited his personal experiences as a teacher and principal in understanding the complexities experienced by vulnerable children and families, and the resulting pressure on community services. His responses addressed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A recognition of the challenges with the Out-of-home-care system ○ A commitment to local Community Driven Models in service delivery rather than “top-down box ticking and ass-covering” ○ Improving housing security by putting an end to no-grounds evictions ○ Reducing the cost of living - particularly energy ○ Reinstating funding for disability advocacy

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<i>Candidate responses (cont)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Collaborating with Federal Labor for fair share of their proposed investment in social housing, recognizing that many hotels and motels are currently being used extensively for temporary accommodation ○ Working on a plan as part of regional development portfolio to foster better working relationships between councils and government ○ Roundtable with superannuation industry and housing experts for alternative models such as rent-to-buy, and also on financial models to ensure the numbers ‘stack up’ for private developments of affordable housing ○ Looking into former derelict buildings being converted into temporary accommodation ○ Long term commitment to case management for people experiencing homelessness <p>In response to a question from the floor on climate change and the impact of cost of living (electricity in particular), as a contributor to household financial stress:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Labor will establish a new State Owned Corporation to deliver 1 gigawatt of renewable energy generation and energy storage projects, plus an overall target of 9 gigawatts of renewable energy from the sector; ○ NSW Labor will provide financial incentives for the installation of household solar panels and Federal Labor will provide incentives for battery storage ○ Implement ‘virtual grid’ technology that will allow neighbours to share excess electricity generated from their solar panels. For example, schools can share the energy generated by their solar panels during school holidays. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ “putting people back in the system” eg Counsellors and Career Guidance in schools, more nurses in hospitals (particularly mental health)

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