



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Select Committee on Essential Worker Housing

19 June 2024

MEDIA RELEASE

New Select Committee on Essential Worker Housing

A Select Committee has been established to inquire into the options for Essential Worker Housing.

Essential workers are employed in a range of industries including education, medicine, emergency services, healthcare and other frontline services. They are key to the functioning, safety and wellbeing of metropolitan and regional NSW.

The Select Committee on Essential Worker Housing will investigate possible definitions of essential worker housing, including criteria for establishing worker cohorts and geographical areas that might be prioritised in future planning initiatives.

The Committee will also investigate planning tools and resources that might be drawn on to increase essential worker housing across NSW. This includes possible programs to incentivise private development of essential worker housing, and opportunities to include essential worker housing in developments on government-owned land.

The Committee will consider measures to ensure NSW's essential worker housing is economically sustainable and available in perpetuity.

Chair of the Committee and Sydney MP Alex Greenwich said the inquiry will engage with stakeholders to identify options for essential worker housing in NSW.

“NSW's essential workers keep schools, hospitals and communities running, but without a sufficient supply of affordable housing it can be impossible for them to find suitable accommodation close to work.

Police officers, teachers and nurses working in Sydney regularly commute well over an hour to get to work.

In regional and remote NSW, insufficient housing supply leads to worker shortages in healthcare, law enforcement, hospitality and tourism and community services.

It is important to ensure that essential workers are included in the NSW Government's plans to increase housing supply.”

The Committee is inviting submissions from essential workers, community housing providers, legal and research centres, local governments and councils, community groups and the public. More information, including the inquiry's terms of reference and details on how to make a submission, is available on the Committee's [webpage](#).

Submissions close on **Friday, 13 September 2024**.

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