



THE HON BRENDAN O'CONNOR MP

Minister for Housing
Minister for Homelessness

ALGA MAIL
ITEM No:
DATE RECEIVED: 30-10-12
FILE No:

MC12-010523

22 OCT 2012

Mayor Genia McCaffery
President
Australian Local Government Association
8 Geils Court
DEAKIN ACT 2600

Dear Mayor *Genia*

Thank you for your letter of 3 September 2012 about the resolution from the 2012 National General Assembly of Local Government calling on the Australian Government to consider the provision of ongoing capital funding for social housing. I apologise for the delay in responding.

As you may be aware the Council of Australian Governments agreed to the National Affordable Housing Agreement (NAHA), commencing 1 January 2009. The objective of the NAHA is that all Australians have access to affordable, safe and sustainable housing that contributes to social and economic participation.

Through the NAHA the Australian Government provides \$1.2 billion per year in housing assistance to states and territories. Australian Government payments under the NAHA can be used for capital purposes, though states and territories mostly use these funds for recurrent purposes. The level of funding for the NAHA is due for review by the end of 2013 to ensure its ongoing adequacy.

The Government is also investing \$6 billion in social housing which is delivering an enormous boost by delivering over 21,000 social housing homes across Australia. In addition \$4.5 billion is being provided under the National Rental Affordability Scheme to build 50,000 new rental homes for low and moderate income Australians.

I would like to assure you that addressing housing affordability and supply issues are high priorities of this Government.

Thank you again for writing.

Yours sincerely

Brendan O'Connor