A major Post-Olympics affordable housing plan

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Thirty of the State's major housing and community services organisations have today released a four point plan, to reduce homelessness and generate more affordable housing, in post-Olympics NSW.

"This plan, which draws on important achievements during the recent Games period, directly tackles the diminishing supply of affordable housing in Sydney, whilst proposing key improvements in how homeless people are treated, on the streets, and through the supported housing system," said NCOSS Director, Gary Moore.

"Just last week, Mission Australia reported a 400% increase, over the past 10 years, in demand for supported accommodation by families."

"Shelter NSW estimated 700 people sleeping rough on any night in Sydney during September 2000, despite an additional 300 emergency accommodation beds being provided for the Games period."

"Research suggests around 8% of all boarding house rooms are being lost each year in the inner city and inner west of Sydney. Official statistics showed an estimated 35,000 requests for assistance being unable to be met, in NSW, by homeless services in 1998/99."

"This four point plan calls on the NSW Government to immediately introduce a code of conduct for Police and public officials when dealing with the street homeless. This action is based on the successful operation of the Olympics Homeless Protocol, which saw minimal harassment of those sleeping rough in the CBD."

"It urges the immediate allocation of further Temporary Accommodation Funds into the service support system for the homeless and the extension of Government support for Parramatta's Outreach Program, with a further expansion to other centres at a later date."

"The plan calls on Fair Trading Minister, John Watkins to quickly introduce legislation to effectively protect boarders and lodgers, and to amend the current Residential Tenancies Act, to improve protections for tenants against excessive rent increases and evictions."

"The plan reinforces the need, in early 2001, for the Carr Government to implement a new State Environmental Planning Policy (SEPP) for Affordable Housing, based on developer contributions of housing stock or cash contributions."

"And the plan proposes that the Carr Government allocate additional resources, from its exceptionally strong revenue base, to the capital supply of social housing in next May's State Budget."