

MEDIA RELEASE

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WACOSS Welcomes Lord Mayor's Public Housing Push

"We welcome Lord Mayor Lisa Scaffidi's call for more public housing in inner urban areas, and we hope to work with her on this issue as part of the Social Housing Taskforce," said Sue Ash, CEO of the Western Australian Council of Social Service.

"WACOSS has long advocated for public and community housing that is integrated with transport options and not isolated on the city's fringe," said Ms Ash.

"It's a bad idea to concentrate all public and community housing in outer suburbs with poor public transport access, fewer jobs and less access to services. Isolation means that tenants are at risk of becoming socially excluded, and perpetuating a cycle of disadvantage," said Ms Ash.

"We're strongly arguing as part of the Social Housing Taskforce that public housing tenants should not be isolated and socially excluded, and we call on the Lord Mayor to work with us to achieve a better result for WA".

"Local councils are an important player in the public housing arena. We need councils to recognise the need for a better approach to public housing, and to back this up with action in the form of planning approvals," said Ms Ash.

"WACOSS looks forward to working with the Lord Mayor to ensure that public housing is appropriately located".

Perth Lord Mayor Lisa Scaffidi today called on Governments to avoid concentrating public housing on the city's fringe, saying that "the cost savings of building affordable housing on the fringes did not justify the extra expenses of living outside the city".

The Lord Mayor's comments were made as the Council of Capital City Lord Mayors met to discuss the issue of public housing.

For further comment:
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