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Rentals unaffordable across Australia

The Executive Director Anglicare Australia, Kasy Chambers, today pointed to the impossibly tight private rental market as evidence that Australians living on low incomes are doubly disadvantaged.

“Anglicare agencies in four states surveyed their newspapers for properties to rent earlier this month to produce a snapshot of private rental housing” Ms Chambers said.

“The results are startling.

“Rent which is more than 30% of a limited income, such as a benefit or pension, is generally regarded as not affordable. On that basis there was absolutely nothing advertised in Brisbane, Adelaide, Canberra and or right across Tasmania that a young person on Youth Allowance or Austudy could afford.

“There was almost nothing for a single parent with one or two children, or even a single person on Newstart Allowance, anywhere in Tasmania. For people on those benefits in Adelaide or Brisbane absolutely no affordable homes were advertised. And there were only two properties suitable for *anyone at all on a low income* in the whole of Canberra.

“Where accommodation did qualify as ‘affordable’ it was usually for single aged and disability pensioners, because they have a slightly higher income, and in the vast majority of cases it was for rooms in share houses. In Australia’s tight rental market, aged and disability pensioners are unlikely to be the first priority for any group house.

“This survey was a snapshot only. It didn’t look at the condition of the houses which people on low incomes might live in. Nor did it take account of energy and transport costs associated with those houses, which are growing at a rate of knots for many.

“Access to safe, secure and affordable housing underpins the capacity of us all to make a positive contribution to our society.

“The stark shortage of housing for people living on low incomes is a national issue. If we are to become a truly inclusive society we need to grow the supply of social and affordable housing in all our communities” Ms Chambers said.

See also: [Tasmanian rentals unaffordable](#) [Tas] [Brisbane rentals unaffordable](#) [Qld]
[No affordable housing for those who need it most](#) [SA]

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THE VOICE FOR ANGLICAN CARE AND SOCIAL JUSTICE IN AUSTRALIA

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