



Amanda Rishworth MP
Member for Kingston
MEDIA RELEASE
29 September 2008

Rudd Government programs deliver more affordable rental housing in Kingston

Member for Kingston, Amanda Rishworth MP, today welcomed the introduction to Parliament of new laws to establish a National Rental Affordability Scheme.

This new program, which delivers one of Labor's 2007 election commitments, is a \$623 million investment that will create 50,000 affordable rental properties for low and moderate income earners in its first four years.

'Increasing the supply of affordable rental housing is a priority for the Rudd Government', said Ms Rishworth MP.

'Vacancy rates across Australia – including in the electorate of Kingston – are at critically low levels, and rents are increasing faster than other everyday living costs.

'Across Australia, nearly 700,000 low and moderate income families are now spending more than 30 per cent of their limited incomes just to pay the rent.

'Here in electorate of Kingston, 2,987 families are in rental stress.

'These people are being forced to either move house, live in cramped conditions or cut back on essentials just to keep a roof over their heads.

'This has an enormous impact on families, key workers, young people and pensioners.

'This is why increasing the supply of affordable rental homes is a major priority for the Rudd Government.'

The Scheme provides incentives to participants to build new dwellings for renting to low and moderate income households at a 20 per cent below market rents.

More than 1.5 million households around Australia will be eligible to rent the dwelling at a 20 per cent discount to market.

The Scheme will benefit key workers like entry level police officers and teachers, carers, cleaners, retail and hospitality staff and child care workers.

For further information, visit:

<http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/internet/facsinternet.nsf/housing/nras.htm>.