



Amanda Rishworth MP
Member for Kingston

MEDIA RELEASE

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Local residents take part in homelessness forum at the Southern Youth X-Change

Member for Kingston, Amanda Rishworth MP, today hosted a “Which Way Home?” community Forum at the Southern Youth X-Change and thanked all of the participants who took part.

“A number of local residents and community organisations made a great contribution to the national debate on homelessness.”

“As part of the wider debate on how to tackle homelessness in our community, today’s forum will contribute greatly to the national conversation.”

“It’s great to see that the community supports the Rudd Labor Government’s campaign to reduce homelessness across Australia.”

“With around 100,000 Australians homeless on any given night, tackling this problem is a priority.”

“Participants had a broad range of creative ideas on building a stronger community – both at a local and a national level,” Ms Rishworth said.

“Key ideas raised included:

- Need to establish two tiers of response. A short-term “crisis response, designed to immediately provide homeless people with temporary accommodation and solutions, and more long-term initiatives, designed to pre-emptively support people who may be a future risk of homelessness.
- Long-term support that focuses on educating and empowering homeless individuals, so they have the life skills to become self-sufficient.

- Alternative means of providing housing for people. This could potentially involve establishing affordable co-op communities, where previously homeless people could work together to create a meaningful and sustainable home.”
- Create “support packages” designed to specifically aid homeless individuals, including homes, education programs and employment that is created on a case-by-case basis.”

“The summary of today’s discussion will be compiled into a report to be submitted to the Minister for Minister for Housing, Hon Tanya Plibersek.”

“I look forward to the release of the Rudd Labor Government’s White Paper later this year.”