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**BUDGET CONFIRMS TURNBULL GOVERNMENT HAS NO ANSWERS ON
HOUSING AFFORDABILITY AND HOMELESSNESS CRISIS**

Despite the Coalition's rhetoric on housing affordability and homelessness, the Turnbull Government's Budget has again failed to deliver the leadership required to address the nation's housing and homelessness crisis.

Turnbull and Morrison continue to ignore and disadvantage those young Australians seeking to purchase their first home by refusing to remove the distortions created by negative gearing and capital gains tax concessions for wealthy investors.

Labor condemns the Turnbull Government for not continuing a National Partnership on Remote Housing. Abolishing the National Partnership will mean Indigenous Australians continue to endure housing conditions that are unconscionable in a society as wealthy as Australia.

Since coming to Government in 2013, the Coalition have presided over a significant deterioration in housing affordability:

Home ownership rates for young Australians have collapsed to their lowest level in the past 30 years. Fewer than 40 percent now own their home, compared with 60 percent just a generation ago.

Rental stress has also risen substantially. Anglicare's recent Rental Affordability Snapshot has revealed that less than three percent of private rental dwellings are affordable for a single person on the minimum wage,

Data from the 2016 Census has revealed that the number of Australians experiencing homelessness has dramatically risen by 13.7 percent since the 2011.

Despite claiming that measures to address housing affordability were the "centrepiece" of their last Budget, one year on, the Turnbull Government's grab bag of contradictory measures has delivered no relief for Australians.

After delivering its fifth Budget, the Coalition has put beyond doubt that it can ever be trusted to credibly address housing affordability.

Malcolm Turnbull has no Housing Minister, no national plan to tackle rising homelessness, and a full year after announcing the National Housing and Homelessness Agreement has yet to reach agreement with any of the states.

Internationally, many OECD nations have made significant investments in housing affordability, including comparable countries such as New Zealand and Canada.

It was only last week that the Senate Economics Committee drew attention to the need to address the funding gap, which would encourage institutional and community housing providers to invest in and build social and affordable housing.

Labor welcomes the belated decision to address the need to improve housing related data by funding programs in AHURI and the ABS. This is an admission of the mistake by this Government made during its disastrous 2014/15 Budget to axe the National Housing Supply Council.

Labor remains committed to better coordinating research by reinstating the National Housing Supply Council.

The 2018 Budget is testament to the Coalition's abject failure on housing affordability and homelessness.

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