



Wednesday 23 May, 2018

For immediate release

RENTALS NOW AS UNAFFORDABLE IN REGIONAL NSW AS IN CITY

Samaritans has welcomed the release of the latest [Rental Affordability Index \(RAI\)](#)* for Quarter 4 2017.

According to SGS Senior Associate and Partner, Ellen Witte, for the first time in NSW, regional NSW is now just as unaffordable as the metropolitan areas.

These findings are consistent with the recent [Rental Affordability Snapshot](#) released last month by Anglicare Australia, and to which Samaritans contributed regional data.

Samaritans Acting CEO, Brad Webb, said, “This is further evidence that Australia is facing a housing crisis that deserves the attention and action of Government.”

“Just last month Samaritans released data showing that there are very few rental options for our lowest earning Australians – in some cases, there are no affordable or appropriate rentals at all.

“In the regions we operate in, we see the detrimental effect a lack of affordable housing can have on the lives of low income earners.

“A roof over your head is a fundamental right and a building block to living a fulfilling life. Being unable to afford stable and secure accommodation within a household budget places incredible financial pressure and mental stress on people within our communities.

“It is disappointing that the recent Federal Budget was handed down with no new affordable housing measures.

“Samaritans reiterates its call on the Turnbull Government to address rental stress by committing to making housing affordable and accessible to every Australian.”

**Reference: The Rental Affordability Index (RAI) is produced biannually by National Shelter, Community Sector Banking, Brotherhood St Laurence and SGS, and is a price index for housing rental markets. It is an easy to understand indicator of rental affordability relative to household incomes and is applied to geographic areas across Australia.*

With a RAI of 112, regional NSW has a similar, but lower, level of rental affordability to its metropolitan counterpart. Since mid-2014, it has consistently been the least affordable of the rest of state areas studied.

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Contact Samaritans Communications team on 4960 7100 or 0425 324 974 to arrange an interview with Brad Webb.