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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HOUSING AND DEBT HELP ARE SAMARITANS KEY HOPES FOR NSW BUDGET

On the day of the NSW State Budget, Samaritans is calling on the Berijikian Government to increase investment in social and affordable housing and better assist locals stuck in a debt cycle.

Samaritans Acting CEO, Brad Webb, said, "Samaritans research last month showed that locally, more people are being pushed into rental stress and hardship because of the shortage of secure, affordable housing.

"Samaritans has voiced its support for the [Everybody's Home](#) campaign and is calling for the NSW Government to work with its state and territory counterparts to develop a National Housing Strategy to meet Australia's identified shortfall of 500,000 social and affordable rental homes.

"As people go without basic living needs to pay the rent, we see an increased demand for our emergency relief and financial counselling services.

"People in our region are becoming stuck in a debt cycle due to the rising cost of living, and the accessibility of rent-to-buy and payday loan schemes is causing a debt trap.

"Government investment in additional Financial Counsellors can ensure that free and comprehensive support is there for people to get them back on a balanced footing to thrive," Mr Webb, said.

Samaritans also hopes the upcoming Budget will address other important needs for vulnerable people in the community.

"Funding for disability advocacy is critical in the changing environment of the NDIS. Samaritans calls on the government to make a continued commitment to funding in this area," Mr Webb, said.

"Samaritans would also welcome investment in child-centred, trauma informed services targeted specifically at children and young people who have experiences domestic and family violence," he said.

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Media Contact: Brad Webb is available for comment by phone on Tuesday afternoon or Wednesday morning, after the State Budget has been released. Please contact Samaritans media team on 4960 7100 or 0438 475 772.