



NEW SOUTH WALES NURSES AND MIDWIVES' ASSOCIATION
AUSTRALIAN NURSING AND MIDWIFERY FEDERATION NEW SOUTH WALES BRANCH



POSITION STATEMENT ON AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Re-Endorsed by Annual Conference 2022

NSW Nurses and Midwives' Association
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Position Statement on Affordable Housing

For the purposes of this position statement the term 'affordable housing' refers to housing that is "appropriate for the needs of a range of very low to moderate income households; and priced so that households are able to meet other basic living costs such as food, clothing, transport, medical care and education. As a rule of thumb, housing is usually considered affordable if it costs less than 30% of gross household income"¹.

THE NSW NURSES AND MIDWIVES ASSOCIATION RECOGNISES THAT:

- Housing affordability is a growing concern as Australian house prices have become increasingly unaffordable over the last 10 years². Similarly, rents in many areas are increasing at twice the rate of inflation³. Australia's current private rental market is not meeting the needs of all low to medium income households. These households may experience significant trouble securing affordable and appropriate housing². In a 2021 survey of members, 77% of respondents indicated that lack of affordable, secure housing was an issue for them.
- This problem has the potential to impact on quality of life for families and undermines community cohesiveness. Many nurses and midwives find it increasingly difficult to access suitably priced housing of an acceptable standard within a reasonable proximity to their workplace.
- Housing affordability is a major concern for many nurses and midwives in many areas, including metropolitan, rural and regional areas, where the income of the household is not sufficient to pay market rent close to where they work¹.
- There can be significant implications for the quality of essential services and the functionality, including the health and safety of cities when nurses and midwives are unable to live in high cost metropolitan regions³.
- People may require access to affordable housing, including affordable rental housing, at different times, depending on factors such as under-employment, caring responsibilities, family breakdown and localised economic influences.

THE NSW NURSES AND MIDWIVES ASSOCIATION ADOPTS THE POSITION THAT:

- Public policy and planning must address the need for affordable housing for all workers in key service areas.



- Nurses and midwives should be able to rent or purchase housing that is suitable for their needs, that is secure and priced so they can meet other living expenses².
- Access to affordable housing within reasonable proximity to centres of health care delivery should be considered as an important factor in recruitment and retention of nursing and midwifery workforce⁴.

REFERENCES

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