



**Embargoed for release at 12:01am AEST Monday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2019**

## **Media Release – Rental Affordability Snapshot 2019**

Anglicare North Coast surveyed nine locations across the North Coast in its recent Rental Affordability Snapshot. Once again, the findings demonstrate that it is extremely difficult for people on any type of Centrelink benefit to find an affordable rental property anywhere in the region. Those on minimum wages are marginally better off, but also likely to experience difficulties in securing an affordable home.

It is particularly difficult for those on Newstart or Youth Allowance to find a suitable property, with only one property in the region being identified as affordable those on Newstart. For single people on both Newstart and Youth Allowance, there were no affordable properties at all. The situation for single people is compounded by the lack of appropriate sized accommodation (eg: studios or 1 bedroom apartments).

Single parents with 2 children living on Parenting Payment are also likely to have difficulty in renting an affordable home, given the findings that there were no affordable properties identified anywhere in the region for people in this category. This is of great concern, given the significantly higher than national average number of sole parent families in the region.

Single aged people are also not likely to fare well, with only 3 properties available and affordable for them across the region.

In terms of the locations surveyed, Ballina, Byron Bay, and Tweed Heads were the poorest performers, with no affordable properties available for rent that were affordable for people on any type of Centrelink income.

CEO of Anglicare North Coast, Estelle Graham, commented that 'these findings are alarming and of great concern. The unavailability of affordable rental properties means that many people do not have access to adequate, affordable housing, a basic human right and a necessary basis for building a safe and stable life. We are particularly concerned about single people, including both younger single people and single aged pensioners as well as single parent families.'

Anglicare North Coast joins with Anglicare Australia in calling for governments to provide solutions to this critical problem, in particular immediately implementing a plan to substantially increase the supply of affordable housing. We also call on all major political to commit to increasing the Newstart benefit to a level that enables people to meet their basic living expenses.

**Media enquiries and requests for interviews can be made to Estelle Graham, CEO, on 0448 060 506 or via email to: [estelleg@anglicarenc.org.au](mailto:estelleg@anglicarenc.org.au)**