

# COMMUNITY ATTITUDES TOWARDS HOMELESSNESS & HOUSING AFFORDABILITY IN WA

The following summarises independent research undertaken in February 2021<sup>1</sup>



**HOMELESSNESS, AFFORDABLE RENTAL HOUSING and SOCIAL HOUSING** will influence **2/3** of **VOTERS** at the WA State Election.

- Overall, two thirds of voters (65%) reported the issue of homelessness will be influential in their voting intention, with 39% reporting the issue to be "very" or "extremely influential".
- Just 15% of voters said the issues of homelessness was "not at all" influential.



**HOMELESSNESS** is in the **TOP FOUR** issues the **COMMUNITY** would like the State Government to **FOCUS** more upon.

Homelessness was ranked fourth overall, only just behind Cost of Living, Crime and the Public health system.<sup>2</sup>

- More than 1 in 10 Western Australians (12%) placed homelessness as the #1. Only Crime (19%), Cost of living (15%), and Climate change (14%) come out ahead, and it comes out ahead of global pandemic response, public health system, unemployment, congestion and road infrastructure and public transport. Housing affordability / Cost of Housing came out at number 7.<sup>3</sup>



**WEST AUSTRALIANS** overwhelmingly **SUPPORT** initiatives to **REDUCE HOMELESSNESS** and **INCREASE AFFORDABLE RENTAL and SOCIAL HOUSING**

- Over 4 in 5 respondents would support initiatives that reduce the incidence of homelessness (87%) and increase the amount of affordable rental housing in WA (81%).
- Almost 3 in 4 (71%) would support initiatives that increase the amount of social housing in WA (with only 4% strongly opposed).
- 90% would support homelessness, social housing and affordable housing initiatives if they created new jobs or stimulated the WA economy, and 87% would support them if they improved the health, wellbeing and housing security of vulnerable Western Australians.



**YOUNGER PEOPLE** and people earning **UNDER \$100,000** are significantly **INFLUENCED** by **LACK OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING**

- 38% of 18-34 year olds report lack of affordable rental housing will have a very or extremely influential impact on their vote.
- 40% of people with a household income of under \$100,000 report lack of affordable housing will have very or extremely influential impact on their vote.

1. Survey details: The polling was conducted in February 2021 by Painted Dog Research group operating in line with the international standard for market, opinion and Social Research (ISO 20252). The sample size is n=612 with a survey error of 3.96% at the 95% level of confidence. All survey participants were over 18 years of age and include residents from the Perth metropolitan area in all upper house electorates.

2. When asked to identify the top five issues they'd like to see the WA state government focus more upon.

3. Indicates the number one issue chosen by respondents and the order ranked.

## UNLOCK HOUSING