

Affordable Housing Policy



Australian
Institute of
Architects

CONTEXT

Housing is a basic human need and universal human right, and in the rapidly expanding cities and towns of the twenty-first century, there is a critical need for more flexible and diverse housing solutions. New housing stock needs to be integrated with transport and social infrastructure and much greater diversity beyond simple models of homogenous suburban boxes or regimented apartments. In the face of social and demographic change, growing economic inequality and global issues such as climate change, the architectural profession offers the design and problem solving skills to deliver more affordable, dignified and accessible housing, reducing both upfront and ongoing costs. All financial levers to make housing more affordable for owners and renters need to be regularly examined for their effectiveness.

THE POLICY

The Australian Institute of Architects endorses the following:

- The design and problem solving skills of architects are crucial to the provision of affordable and accessible housing in Australia
- Mandated targets for social and affordable housing and incentives for flexible and diverse housing types
- Housing that is affordable, sustainable, and of high amenity achieved through clever design strategies, including smaller, energy-efficient dwellings; cost-effective, space-efficient and quality controlled mass housing; and the adaptation of existing housing stock to accommodate multi-generational families, and support ageing-in-place
- A focus on multi-residential developments and urban consolidation as the sustainable and affordable solution to the increasing demand for housing in dense urban environments
- Investment in design quality and mandated use of architects for medium and high density housing projects nationally
- Moving Australia towards net zero carbon emissions for the housing sector by 2050