



## WHERE DO YOU ELECT TO LIVE?

The cost of buying a house has dramatically increased in the last ten years.

Once a person on an average wage paid three times their annual income for a house, now it is near eight times annual income and rising. This is shaping up as an impossible cost for the next generation.

This issue must not be ignored as housing is a social determinate of health. A family's ability to live a resilient life is shaped by their housing. People owning affordable housing or living in stable rental accommodation have better health than people who move from place to place in search of affordable shelter.

The churches, and many other social organisations, want to see a community in which all people are valued. The availability of affordable housing is a vital part of this. It is of concern that UnitingCare Wesley is seeing an increased number of people struggling to make their housing payments.

Politicians must address this issue.

Why is it that our community is not able to provide shelter for its modest income citizens in a way never seen before?

In South Australia we have seen the Minister for Housing Jay Weatherill launch the Breakthrough Loan for new home buyers and StartDreams.com - online budgeting through HomeStart. These are excellent initiatives that assist some families reach the high cost of housing.

But there must be a concerted national cooperative approach to affordable housing in Australia. To this end we call on the next Federal government to implement an Affordable Housing Agreement in cooperation with the States.

Failing to address this will undermine the fair Australia that our parents and grandparents created for us in the first place.

For more information  
[assembly.uca.org.au/election2007](http://assembly.uca.org.au/election2007)  
[australiafair.org.au](http://australiafair.org.au)

Rev Peter McDonald is from UnitingCare Wesley

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Contact details  
Peter McDonald  
UnitingCare Wesley  
10 Pitt St, Adelaide 0408 833 419  
[peter.mcdonald@ucwesleyadelaide.org.au](mailto:peter.mcdonald@ucwesleyadelaide.org.au)