



**The Hon Kevin Andrews MP  
Minister for Social Services**

<b>ALGA MAIL</b>
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Mayor Felicity-ann Lewis  
Chair, National General Assembly  
President, Australian Local Government Association  
8 Geils Court  
DEAKIN ACT 2600

Dear Mayor Lewis

Thank you for your letter of 21 October 2013 about the resolutions from the 2013 National General Assembly of Local Government.

I appreciate the time taken on the relevant resolution and acknowledge the important role that the Australian Local Government Association has in developing policy across Australia.

The Australian Government is committed to growth and reform in the social housing sector, including community housing. Social housing provides stable accommodation for Australians who would otherwise struggle in the private rental market.

The Commonwealth assists affordability in the community housing sector through Commonwealth Rent Assistance, the National Affordable Housing Agreement and the National Rental Affordability Scheme. In relation to your call for new capital funding for community housing, while the Commonwealth provides funding under the National Affordable Housing Agreement (NAHA), management of social housing is the responsibility of state and territory governments.

The Commonwealth supports the sustainable development of the community housing sector and, where appropriate, incremental transfers of public housing to help build a larger community housing sector.

I have indicated previously that I would like to see greater transparency and accountability, including performance tied to funding, in the NAHA. To inform our work, I would like to learn from the sector about issues that concern them. The Australian Government will also work with state and territory governments to drive reform and ensure that the best outcomes are achieved from its housing investment.

Thank you again for writing.

Yours sincerely



**KEVIN ANDREWS MP**