

NEWS

High praise for housing service

LODDON Mallee Housing chief executive Ken Marchingo says there is no chance of any one government in any one term solving the housing affordability crisis.

Mr Marchingo said a problem that had been created over a generation could not be fixed in a three-year cycle, but a start could be made.

Mr Marchingo welcomed the auditor-general's report into community housing associations, which showed they were doing their job.

"It means that housing associations are doing what they're meant to," he said.

"The government is getting more bang for their buck.

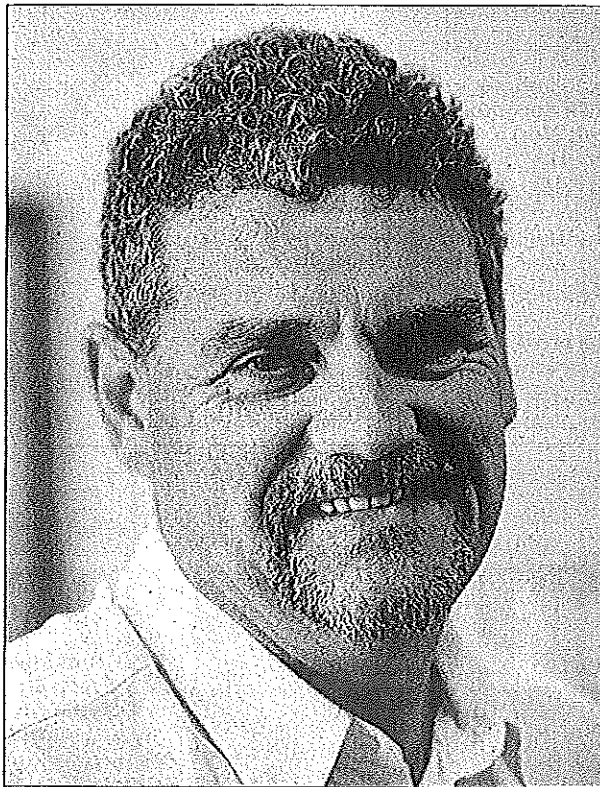
"Housing associations take pressure off public housing waiting lists."

Mr Marchingo said the housing associations were not housing the neediest of the needy but they were creating some choices and some options.

"There is no prospect of any government in any term solely fixing the housing affordability crisis.

"But housing associations have done what they were set up to do and they can do more."

Community Housing



HOME: Loddon Mallee Housing chief Ken Marchingo.

Federation of Victoria chief executive Jacqui Watt said the report showed the significant contribution being made by housing association members in addressing

and meeting pressing housing needs across Victoria.

"We are already exceeding the targets set for us and will deliver 1733 new homes for Victorians.

"The nature of housing needs means that it is urgent that more programs are developed to build more homes."

The report showed that housing associations were making a significant contribution to the public housing waiting list by housing an average of 46 per cent of the list — people who would otherwise still be waiting for public housing.

Housing associations cost less, at an average \$190,000 per dwelling and housing associations achieve greater tenant satisfaction of 86 per cent.

"Community Housing Federation of Victoria believes it is vitally important that an annual funding program exists to address affordable housing needs in Victoria," Ms Watt said.

"The demand for affordable housing is growing and the housing market is increasingly excluding people on middle and low incomes from being able to consider outright purchase and ownership or secure a rental property they can afford.

"The community housing sector seeks to bridge and fill that gap by creating affordable housing that is based on quality housing standards and good design."

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