



## Building Better Homes

### A National Building Code for All Australians

Hon. Scott Morrison  
Prime Minister  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Hon. Gladys Berejiklian  
Premier of New South Wales  
GPO Box 5341  
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Hon. Daniel Andrews  
Premier of Victoria  
1 Treasury Place  
MELBOURNE VIC 3002

Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk  
Premier of Queensland  
PO Box 15185  
CITY EAST QLD 4002

Hon. Stephen Marshall  
Premier of South Australia  
PO Box 2343  
ADELAIDE SA 5001

Hon. Mark McGowan  
Premier of Western Australia  
Level 5, Dumas House,  
2 Havelock Street,  
WEST PERTH WA 6005

Hon. Peter Gutwein  
Premier of Tasmania  
Level 9, 15 Murray Street  
HOBART TAS 7000

Hon. Michael Gunner  
Chief Minister of the  
Northern Territory  
GPO Box 3146,  
DARWIN NT 0801

Hon. Andrew Barr  
Chief Minister of the  
Australian Capital Territory  
GPO Box 1020,  
CANBERRA ACT 2601

By email.

10 February 2021

Dear Prime Minister, Premiers and Chief Ministers,

#### **Support for mandatory accessibility standards to be included in the National Construction Code.**

We, the undersigned 35 organisations, representing people with disability, older Australians, allied health and health professionals, the housing sector and the broader Australian community, urge you to support the inclusion of mandatory accessibility standards in the National Construction Code, when Building Ministers meet in March this year.

**Opportunities for major long-term reforms are infrequent. With this decision, you are in the fortunate position of being able to improve the lives of millions of Australians, their families and carers by supporting this change to the Construction Code. Mandatory accessibility standards will future-proof Australian housing.**

Right now, nearly three-quarters of Australians with mobility impairment are unable to find housing that meets their needs. This includes people with disability, older Australians, people with chronic illness and those recovering from injury.

More than ten years after the voluntary Liveable Housing Design Guidelines were adopted, it is estimated that only around 5% of new home builds meet these voluntary guidelines.

**It is clear that only mandatory standards will meet the growing demand for accessible housing - demand that is only going to increase as our population ages.**

Independent economic analysis undertaken by the Melbourne Disability Institute at the University of Melbourne found that the benefits clearly outweigh the costs of implementing a mandatory accessibility standard.

The benefits include more opportunity for people with disability to live independent, productive lives, more choice for older Australians to age at home, and improved support for people with chronic illness or injury.

Moreover, mandatory accessibility standards will have clear financial benefits for Commonwealth and State and Territory Governments, with significant savings expected across the aged care sector, the health and hospitals sector and the National Disability Insurance Scheme.

**We therefore urge you to support mandatory accessibility standards in the National Construction Code, for the benefit of ALL Australians.**

We look forward to your support on this issue.

Yours sincerely,

The Building Better Homes Campaign Coalition, including:

Summer Foundation, ACOSS, National Disability Services, Community Housing Industry Association, Every Australian Counts, National Seniors Australia, Spinal Cord Injury Australia, St Vincent's Care Services, Occupational Therapy Australia, Australian Federation of Disability Organisations, Building Designers Association of Australia, People with Disability Australia, Mental Health Community Coalition ACT, National Shelter, Specialist Disability Accommodation Alliance, Rights and Inclusion Australia, COTA Western Australia, Housing for the Aged Action Group, Queenslanders with Disability Network, COTA Queensland, Physical Disability Australia, Australian Association of Gerontology, Australian Network of

Universal Housing Design, Centre for Universal Design Australia, COTA NSW, Melbourne Disability Institute, Brain Injury Australia, Children and Young People with Disability, Brightwater Care Group, Alfred Health, Young People in Nursing Homes, Physical Disability Council of New South Wales, COTA Tasmania, Spinal Life Australia.



