

UNSW SRC Statement on the Impact of the Housing & Rental Market Crisis and the Role of Universities to address this. The UNSW SRC calls on UNSW to increase accessible and affordable accommodation for students on campus.

LET US KNOW WHAT YOU THINK HERE: <https://forms.gle/WswyaGqoHkUjhBvu9>

The housing crisis has impacted young people's ability to afford to move out of homes, affordability of safe, secure, and healthy accommodation that is not affected by black mold or is vulnerable due to repeated exposure to climate change related natural disasters and to long-term accommodation during their academic terms at UNSW.

Several students have expressed concerns over being exposed to unsafe living conditions, being unable to live on campus which may be the safer and more accessible option for them (students with disabilities) due to high costs of the accommodation on and off-campus run by UNSW or by other private accommodation providers and the difficulties due to bad landlords who did little to address the unsafe living conditions or provide any assistance in light of the increasing cost of living.

To ensure that students have a safe and affordable access to social support at UNSW, this move will play a pivotal role in ensuring specifically vulnerable groups of students - regional, rural, international, Indigenous students are provided specific support to undertake their degrees. This also increases student safety and improves their overall student experience.

Several students have repeatedly reported the lack of affordable housing options on campus. The current cost of living and other associated costs has increased, which has massively impacted the rental and housing market leaving students in a vulnerable state of being exposed to homelessness, couch surfing or not having secure long-term housing and accommodation.

There is a critical need to address these issues urgently to prevent leaving young people vulnerable, exploited and at a high risk of being homeless with no support. The UNSW SRC has a few key demands that we believe UNSW must critically and urgently address.

1. Provide affordable housing all year long to students on campus. This begins with capping student accommodation prices and offering more scholarships to vulnerable students to ensure they have access to safe and reliable accommodation.
2. Working with StudyNSW, the State Government, other Universities and Tertiary Education providers, RAHU (Renters and Housing Union) and the Tenants Union of NSW to address the current housing market crisis. More specifically the lack of affordable accommodation, the low rental vacancies, and the difficulties of managing housing demand when international students arrive in NSW.
3. To work with the relevant bodies to provide clear, accurate and current information on how to find suitable rental accommodation, information against scams and to develop a registry of below standard rental providers or scammers to ensure students do not fall victim to these.

4. To setup and develop better co-op housing, social housing schemes for students from low-SES and or struggling with other vulnerabilities to have access to housing to ensure they are not left vulnerable and at the risk of being homeless.

If you have any further questions do not hesitate to contact [Reid Hou](#) the [UNSW SRC Welfare Collective](#) Officer at welfare.officer@arc.unsw.edu.au or [Nayonika Bhattacharya](#) the [Student Representative Council UNSW](#) President at src.president@arc.unsw.edu.au.