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Tasmanian Government **Media Release**

Guy Barnett, Minister for State Development, Construction and Housing

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Helping more Tasmanians into affordable rental properties

The Rockliff Liberal Government is committed to improving access to the housing market and increasing housing affordability for Tasmanians.

The Tasmanian Government is taking action to improve the affordability and access to Tasmania's housing market, consolidating housing as one of our highest priorities in Homes Tasmania.

Our Homes Tasmania's Private Rental Incentives (PRI) program, is designed to help Tasmanians who are having difficulty accessing affordable private rentals into affordable, safe and secure private rental properties.

“The PRI commenced in in 2018, it has already supported 514 eligible families to access a private rental home at an affordable rent,” Minister Barnett said.

“Today, I was pleased to meet with long-term supporter of the PRI program, Mrs Erminia Sorella, at one of the three properties she and her husband have in the program.

“The property has been home to a long-term tenant for around two years and has now been allocated and will shortly be home to another Tasmanian needing an affordable rental.

“Under the PRI, rents are capped at 25 to 30 per cent below median rates in their region. In return, property owners receive an incentive payment and fee-free tenancy and property management by Centacare Evolve Housing.

“We're encouraging more Tasmanian landlords to sign up for our Private Rental Incentives program, with a win-win for both landlords and Tasmanian families in need of an affordable home.”

Tasmanians on low incomes who can live in a private rental with an affordable rent may be eligible for the program. Potential tenants are encouraged to apply through Housing Connect.

We'll be building on our existing programs and history of innovation to trial a further program of housing support for Tasmanians

“In recognition of Tasmania’s rental challenges, I’m pleased to announce that the 2023-24 Budget provides an additional \$1.5 million for Homes Tasmania to trial an innovative new Affordable Rentals Initiative with more flexibility in the program. This trial will source private rentals at market rates and provide them to eligible low-income Tasmanians at a reduced rent,” Minister Barnett said.

“This allows Homes Tasmania to work with the private sector to provide affordable rentals to eligible households and ease the cost-of-living to those who need it most.”

“We are listening to Tasmanians and taking action to address housing affordability and cost-of-living,

We know that one of the biggest housing challenges Tasmanians face is finding a home to rent that is affordable.

Our new Affordable Rentals Initiative (ARI), will secure private rentals at market rates which will then be provided to eligible Tasmanians at a reduced rent.

These programs will provide immediate support while we deliver increased supply through our \$1.5 billion housing package, improving the lives of Tasmanians by delivering 10,000 homes for Tasmanians in need by 2032. We are currently on track to deliver 1500 new dwellings by June with 914 completed at the end of April.

For more information on the Private Rental Incentive program, see www.homestasmania.com.au/privaterentalincentives.

We also encourage anyone who is experiencing housing stress, or who is homeless or is at risk of homelessness, to contact Housing Connect, 24 hours a day, seven days a week on 1800 800 588.