



2023 NSW STATE ELECTION PLATFORM

AN EQUAL SAY
A FAIRER WORLD



INNER SYDNEY VOICE
regional social development council

INNER SYDNEY VOICE

Established in 1974, Inner Sydney Voice is a not-for-profit organisation that empowers people to have an equal say in the big picture decisions that affect their lives and communities. We do this by:

- Urging decision-makers to listen to all voices, not only the most dominant ones
- Working with stakeholders to create genuine opportunities for people to have input, especially people who are disempowered
- Enabling people to engage effectively in consultation, planning and decision-making
- Strengthening the capacity of organisations that pursue related goals

We call on all candidates in the following electorates to acknowledge and work with us to deliver long, lasting, positive change: **Balmain, Coogee, Heffron, Kogarah, Maroubra, Newtown, Rockdale, Summer Hill, Sydney and Vaucluse.**

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

ISV office is located on the land of the traditional owners of the Gadigal people of the Eora Nation. We acknowledge and pay our respects to the traditional owners of the lands across the areas we service, including the Bidjigal, Birrabirragal, Gadigal, Gweagal and Wangal people. We acknowledge that sovereignty over these lands has never been ceded. ISV covers the local government areas of City of Sydney, Bayside, Randwick, Waverley, Woollahra, and the Inner West.

We pay our respects to Elders past and present.

ISV's approach is to listen to and offer support to First Nations Communities around the Voice to Parliament in order to promote awareness and dialogue within the boarder community. We note other States are establishing complementary Voices to State Parliaments and progressing consideration of state-based Treaties.

Poverty affects nearly 900,000 people in New South Wales

– more than in any other state or territory¹. Children, single women, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and people with disability are the most likely to be living in poverty, economic and/or social disadvantage. Single parent families in Kensington, Pyrmont-Ultimo, Sydney-Haymarket, The Rocks and Waterloo have the highest rates of poverty in Sydney.

Housing stress in Sydney is at an unprecedented high with a disproportionate number of people in the private rental market living below the poverty line.

Whilst older people are less likely to be poor in general, the poverty rate amongst older people is highest in the inner suburbs such as Surry Hills, Redfern and Waterloo where there are large numbers of public housing tenants.

Some 41% of households in City of Sydney contained only one person, compared with 23.2% in Greater Sydney². Living alone is one of the most substantial risk factors for both social isolation and loneliness³.

1 Yogi Vidyattama, Robert Tanton and NSW Council of Social Service Mapping Economic Disadvantage in NSW NCOSS 2019

2 ABS – Census 2021

<https://profile.id.com.au/sydney/household-size>
3 Flood 2005; Lauder et al. 2004; Relationships Australia 2011

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Priorities for the electorates of Balmain, Coogee, Heffron, Kogarah, Maroubra, Newtown, Rockdale, Summer Hill, Sydney and Vacluse

1 COST OF LIVING

Sydney is one of the most expensive cities in the world. People across the Inner Sydney Region are significantly impacted by the rising cost of living particularly in relation to affordable housing, utility costs and access to fresh food and produce.

- **Work with Inner Sydney Regional Voice and the local community to develop and implement a community driven Cost-of-Living Strategy**
- **Advocate for a cost of living support package for low income earners and those experiencing housing stress**
- **Climate-proof all affordable housing stock to reduce ongoing costs**

2 HOUSING RENTERS⁴

- **Remove NO-grounds evictions. Everyone deserves stability**
- **Ban secret rent-bidding. All offers must be open and transparent to avoid price-gouging**
- **Create a Rent Commission that will identify, implement and enforce the rights of renters, whilst also investigating potential wrongdoing by landlords, creating a fairer rental market**



HOUSING FIRST HOME OWNERS

- **Reduce barriers to first home ownership for lower income earners**
- **Call on a dramatic increase of investment in social and public housing stock from the NSW government**
- **Create a mandatory requirement that 30 per cent of all livable floor space in new developments (apartment and townhouses) be set aside for public and affordable housing**

⁴ ISV supports Shelter NSW I rent and I Vote Platform https://shelternsw.org.au/news_items/i-rent-and-i-vote-shelter-nsw-2023-state-election-platform/

HOUSING OLDER PEOPLE

- Fund a specialist older person's housing information and support service that comprises an early intervention and crisis response (similar to the Victorian Home at Last model)
- Invest in a better emergency response service to meet the needs of older people

3 IMPROVE OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOCIAL CONNECTION BY ADDRESSING CAUSES OF LONELINESS AND SOCIAL ISOLATION

- Support Inner Sydney Voice campaign that shines a light on the impacts of loneliness and social isolation
- Support calls for funding of innovative, evidence driven, local strategies that identify and redress the causes of social isolation and loneliness. This includes paid employment for those at high risk of exclusion from the workforce, volunteering, supporting and building sporting or community organisations, universal design of public spaces and amenities

4 COMMUNITY CENTRE INCLUSION AND INVESTMENT

Addressing community disadvantage needs investment. A little can go a long way. Community centres and local organisations can play a significant role in alleviating poverty, engaging with and including people at risk of exclusion.

- Legislate place-based collaboration for all government departments and key local services such as ISV, responsible for community development, health, education, the environment, social planning and transport
- Provide core funding to organisations like Inner Sydney Voice who can facilitate local engagement and connections and local service development capability for the expressed purpose of alleviating poverty and disadvantage
- Protect small and medium community organisations through better support and more equitable funding/commissioning processes

