

Media Release

UNDER EMBARGO UNTIL 1PM, MONDAY, DECEMBER 14

Housing affordability issues set to hit the Barossa region

The Barossa Valley may be associated with prosperity and success, but a new independent report shows that vulnerable community members are at risk of slipping through the cracks if there is not a coordinated approach to social and community infrastructure, services and housing across the region.

The report, commissioned by leading community housing and social services provider Junction Australia and undertaken by the Housing Action Network earlier this year, suggests that with projected population growth in the area over the next 30 years the region will need to adopt a more systematic, planned and coordinated approach to social and housing issues.

“There are a number of effective networks spanning service and housing providers and councils” said Graham Brown, CEO of Junction Australia.

“However, with forecast rapid population growth, a limited supply of social housing, and hidden pockets of disadvantage, the Barossa and surrounding areas risk becoming a polarised community.

“The Barossa community has the capacity to address these inequities.

“In our experience, when people understand the issues and share a mutual commitment to achieving a better outcome, new resources can often be mobilised to support important new ventures.”

Author of the report, Dr Tony Gilmour noted: “As an organisation with a proven track record in delivering community outcomes, understanding the connectedness of social, community and housing issues, Junction Australia is well placed to play a greater role helping coordinate the great work of multiple agencies and local councils across the region”.

Junction Australia, which currently manages 83 properties throughout the Barossa after a merger with Barossa and District Housing, will release the report at the Barossa Regional Housing Community forum being held in Vine Inn Hotel, Nuriootpa on Monday, December 14.

“Junction Australia is keen to work with the regional councils and other community groups and organisations to develop a coordinated response to the challenges identified in the report, Mr Brown said.

“We are willing to commit \$30,000 over the next three years to leverage contributions from other stakeholders to establish a new service coordination role in the region.”

Junction Australia is a trusted provider of high quality, affordable housing and integrated community services that currently manages 1,700 properties across South Australia. We firmly believe that by working together we can take steps that enable people to navigate their way from ‘Crisis to Connectedness’. Our clients are supported to overcome barriers, access opportunities and pursue their hopes and dreams.

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