



FUN FOR EVERYONE: Alice Willetts and her three-year-old son Archie were amongst the hundreds of locals who converged on the Goulburn and District Race Club yesterday for the Family Race Day. While parents enjoyed the full program the littlies were kept entertained by a jumping castle, face painting and a petting zoo. Photo: TOM SEBO.

Goulburn's rental crisis

By TOM SEBO

GOULDURN is amidst a housing affordability crisis, with single low income earners being the worst affected.

Anglicare NSW Southern Tablelands general manager Simon Bennett told the *Post* there was a rental affordability crisis across Australia and that our area was being badly affected.

"We know that in reality people are living in rental stress and going without necessities such as food," Mr Bennett said.

"There are no affordable private rentals

for most single people relying on government benefits anywhere in the region... Taking the typical cost of share bedroom in Goulburn - \$130 per week - as a benchmark, a single person relying on Youth allowance or Austudy would be left with as little as \$71 to live on each week after rent."

Anglicare's annual National Rental Affordability Snapshot, released today, reveals that the Southern Tablelands region had one of the worst levels of rental unaffordability in NSW.

There are very few housing options in the private rental market for those on low incomes, and these are only available to a

limited set of the low-income group.

The report showed that only two per cent of properties were affordable and appropriate to a single minimum waged parent with two children, and no properties were available to single parent families on government support.

It also found that singles and couples on the aged pension had extremely limited options - nothing but shared accommodation for singles and only one non-shared property in total for couples. Similarly single Disability Support Pension recipients were limited to shared accommodation.

Mr Bennett said the severe rental affordability crisis in Canberra was impacting Goulburn and the rest of the region.

"Our research shows that a single parent on the minimum wage will be unable to find anywhere affordable to rent in either Canberra, Queanbeyan or the Yass Valley," he said.

"The reality is that people from Canberra are competing with locals for very limited housing stock. We could find only one affordable property for this household type in Goulburn."

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• Grafton St cottage destined for dozer P4

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