



Australian Network
for Universal
Housing Design

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4 June 2020

The Hon Scott Morrison MP
Prime Minister
Parliament of Australia

Dear Prime Minister

**Livable Housing Design standard in all new housing construction
under your Home Builder plan**

Australian Network for Universal Housing Design (ANUHD) is a national network of people that believe that the homes we build today should be fit for all of tomorrow's Australians.

We applaud your "HomeBuilder" package for the housing sector and ask that you include the industry agreed Livable Housing Design guidelines as a condition of the funding.

In 2010, the housing industry, community and human rights leaders agreed to a national access standard for all new housing construction, and a plan to implement it in stages by 2020. Called the [Livable Housing Design Guidelines](#) and [Strategic Plan](#), they were adopted by COAG in 2011 as a commitment in its [2010-2020 National Disability Strategy](#).

No decisive action was taken, and it is estimated that by 2020 less than 5% of new homes comply with this agreement.

The failure of this plan led to the Building Ministers Forum to develop a [Regulatory Impact Statement](#) for consideration of a regulated access standard in the National Construction Code in 2022. It also led to the [recommendation](#) by the United Nations Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disability that Australia mandate access in all new and extensively modified housing.

The COVID-19 has clarified how vulnerable we all are, and how important it is to have basic accessibility in our homes when we are ill, frail, old or simply helping family members who are. This is your opportunity to ask the housing industry leaders to walk their talk, to follow through with their agreement, and require any recipient of your "HomeBuilder" grant to include the Livable Housing Design Guidelines in their housing construction plans.

Thank you.

Yours Sincerely,

Margaret Ward PSM/David Brant Convenors

cc Building Ministers Forum, The Hon Michael Sukkar MP