Having somewhere affordable to live opens the door to many opportunities throughout our lives. Opening Doors is a Government initiative that aims to create an additional 20,000 affordable housing opportunities by 2020 to help low to moderate income earners get their foot in the door.
New public-private-community partnerships are financing, developing, building and managing a broader range of affordable housing at a lower cost to taxpayers. Examples include developments in Pier Street, Northbridge; EPRA shared-equity dwellings, East Perth; and Kahana Parkway, Butler.

The Strategy will deliver at least 20,000 additional affordable rental and home ownership opportunities by 2020 for people on low to moderate incomes across Western Australia. It will also create more pathways to help people move between different types of homes as their needs and circumstances change.

In partnership we can ensure that Western Australia is an affordable place to live and work for all people.

The solution involves all of us...

Ensuring Western Australians on low to moderate incomes have access to housing which is Appropriate, Available and Affordable involves all levels of government, the private sector, community organisations and individuals. To reach our goal of at least 20,000 additional affordable homes by 2020, the Government will actively partner with the private sector to develop and invest in affordable housing projects, the not for profit sector to develop and manage more social and affordable housing and local government to develop and boost affordable housing options in their local communities. Government agencies such as the Departments of Regional Development and Lands, Treasury and Planning, and the Office of Housing and Land Supply will work together to deliver key planning reforms and other complementary actions to increase the supply of affordable housing. The human services portfolios also have a vital role to play in improving outcomes for individuals.

The results benefit all of us...

The Strategy is designed to influence the supply, range and diversity of affordable housing as well as the activities of the housing market, government and consumers. If we share the doing, and focus on what each sector does best, we lessen costs to taxpayers and reduce other pressures on our community, such as homelessness. We all benefit.

More social housing, affordable rentals and home ownership opportunities over 10 years:

- 8,300 more low deposit Keystart and shared-equity home loans
- 5,500 subsidised private rental opportunities
- 3,500 more social houses by 2013
- 1,000 more social and affordable dwellings generated by growth of the community housing sector
- 32,000 more affordable housing lots through the Department of Housing
- More affordable housing for key workers in the regions

The graph below illustrates low and high progress over the 10 years of the Strategy, with the aim of exceeding the 20,000 target where possible.

Declining affordability affects all of us...

People on moderate incomes are renting for longer because they can’t afford to buy a home while people on low incomes are queueing for public housing because there are fewer private rentals they can afford.

A lack of affordable housing negatively affects our economy and communities. Key workers such as tradespeople, nurses and retail staff cannot live close to where they need to work, resulting in a shortage of critical services. This in turn puts a brake on the State’s economic development and productivity.

It is vital that we make significant changes to the housing system now to create more affordable entry points and pathways for low to moderate income households. Public housing is only part of the answer – there are other much more practical and cost effective solutions for taxpayers and people in need.

The graph below illustrates low and high progress over the 10 years of the Strategy, with the aim of exceeding the 20,000 target where possible.