

Media Release

MEDIA RELEASE

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RAPID ANTIGEN TESTS SHOULD BE FREE FOR THOSE ON LOW INCOMES

The NSW Council of Social Service (NCOSS) is urging the Australian Government to make rapid antigen tests free for those on low incomes.

NCOSS CEO Joanna Quilty said: “People in NSW should be able to access rapid antigen tests for free, particularly those on low incomes who cannot afford this vital tool,” Ms Quilty said.

“Our research has told us that people who are unemployed have the worst experience of and access to health care; while those living in regional NSW, living alone or parenting alone are also more likely to report a poor experience and that cost is a major barrier. It tells us that our universal system is in fact not universal.

“If rapid antigen tests are to play a role in our health response to the pandemic, the cost should be free and targeted to those most at risk of missing out.

“Health care in Australia should never be just for those who have the deepest pockets.”

To find out more about NCOSS, visit: www.ncoss.org.au

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