



Homelessness Australia

Creating a framework for ending homelessness

## MEDIA RELEASE

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### **12 MONTHS ON IMPORTANT STEPS TAKEN FOR THE 105,000 HOMELESS AT CHRISTMAS**

Homelessness Australia welcomes the release of *Along the Road Home*. The report summarises some of the important milestones reached since the release of the Federal government white paper on homelessness 12 months ago.

“This report shows the positive steps that have been taken towards meeting the government’s long term goal of halving homelessness in Australia by 2020”, said Executive Officer Simon Smith.

Each state and territory has now released its white paper implementation plan which outlines a wide range of new programs. These include support for families to maintain private tenancies, foyer housing for young people and ‘safe at home’ models for women and children escaping domestic violence. These will be vital to efforts to halve homelessness.

However some important challenges remain to meet the 2020 target.

“Efforts to end homelessness need to be underpinned by housing that is safe, secure and affordable”, said Mr Smith. “The stimulus spending will make a real difference to people on waiting lists. Between now and 2020, we will need a further boost to the supply of social housing. We also look forward to seeing how state and territory strategies to support people to sustain private rental tenancies operate on the ground”, he said.

“We need to continue to support the work of specialist homeless services. Australia has a diverse spectrum of more than 1,000 homeless services that work with more than 200,000 people each year. These have been in place for more than 25 years. New national homelessness legislation that the Government will introduce in 2010 must commit each state and territory to continuing to operate these services”

“We look forward to continuing to work with the government to meet the 2020 target. With a Prime Minister personally committed to ending homelessness, we have an historic opportunity in Australian history”, said Mr Smith

Simon Smith, Executive Officer

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To make a donation to a homeless service this Christmas, go to [www.homelessnessaustralia.org.au](http://www.homelessnessaustralia.org.au)