



Homelessness Australia

Creating a framework for ending homelessness

MEDIA RELEASE

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Budget sets foundation for future action

Homelessness Australia welcomes the Budget's delivery of election commitments to respond to homelessness and support the social inclusion of lower-income Australians.

"With more than 100,000 homeless each night, Australia's high rate of homelessness reflects the gap between the many Australians who have benefited from 10 years of sustained economic growth, and those who have been left behind", Homelessness Australia Executive Officer Simon Smith said today.

This budget details several already-announced measures including the First Home Saver Account, the National Rental Affordability Scheme and the Housing Affordability Fund which take steps toward improving housing affordability for lower-income Australians in the private rental market and those seeking to purchase their own homes.

The already-announced National Plan to Reduce Violence Against Women and Children demonstrates a commitment to addressing domestic violence, the single largest cause of homelessness.

The budget also delivers on the election promise of \$150 million for new homes for people leaving homelessness.

"These are welcome and significant first steps", Mr Smith said.

With the Government's Green Paper on Homelessness due to be released next week, the national peak for homelessness support agencies is hopeful the sector's calls for further specific initiatives will be addressed in the consultative process that will follow the paper's launch. These initiatives include the national roll-out of successful early intervention projects Reconnect and Home Advice.

The 5th National Homelessness Conference will be held in Adelaide from 21-23 May.

"This is an opportunity for our sector to move forward together with Government in developing a comprehensive national response to homelessness," Mr Smith said.

For further information and comment:

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