



Homelessness Implementation Plan

AUSTRALIAN AND SOUTH AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENTS WORKING TOGETHER TO REDUCE HOMELESSNESS

Homelessness in South Australia

On the best available data, 7,962 South Australians are homeless every night.

Of these, 848 are sleeping rough and 2,309 are young people. 66 per cent of South Australians experiencing homelessness were aged 34 or younger; 25 per cent were aged 12 to 18 years and 15 per cent were children under 12 years who were with either one or both parents. 11 per cent of South Australia's homeless are Indigenous.



The Australian and South Australian Governments are committed to reducing homelessness.

What we are doing

In December 2008, the Australian Government released the White Paper on Homelessness, *The Road Home*, which called on all levels of government, business, the not-for-profit sector and the community to join together to reduce homelessness.

The Road Home outlined the need for new investment in homelessness and reform of existing services. Homelessness must be prevented wherever possible. People who experience homelessness must be supported to move quickly through the crisis system into long term housing and at the same time get help to reconnect with education, employment and the community. Mainstream services and homelessness services have to work together more effectively to reduce homelessness.

In *The Road Home*, the Australian Government adopted two headline goals to:

- halve overall homelessness by 2020;
- offer supported accommodation to all rough sleepers who seek it by 2020.

The White Paper also included interim targets to 2013 to contribute to these long term goals.

South Australia is developing an integrated homelessness service system in partnership with both the specialist homelessness service providers and mainstream agencies. The Department for Families and Communities is central to this integrated system that will better connect homeless and vulnerable people to the range of supports and housing solutions they may require.

Work already under way

In *The Road Home* the Australian Government committed to boost its efforts across all areas of government to achieve the 2020 headline goals and interim targets for reducing homelessness. This is especially important in areas such as social housing, employment, income support and aged care.

Specific Australian Government initiatives include:

- \$434.24 million allocated for South Australia to construct 1,371 new dwellings and refurbish existing social housing dwellings as part of the \$5.6 billion Nation Building Economic Stimulus Plan (NBESP);
- \$29.98 million over 2 years for South Australia under the National Partnership Agreement on Social Housing to increase the supply of social housing through the construction of new dwellings;
- \$291.494 million over 10 years for South Australia to provide new houses and upgrades to existing houses in remote Indigenous communities under the National Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Housing;
- \$1 billion nationally over the next four years to build 50,000 affordable rental properties under the National Rental Affordability Scheme;
- Improvements to Centrelink's capacity to respond to people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness; and
- Additional emergency relief funding, more personal helpers and mentors for people living with severe mental illness, innovative employment services and increased capital and recurrent funding for elderly people who are homeless.

New work through the National Partnership Agreement (NPA) on Homelessness

As part of *The Road Home*, in December 2008, the Council of Australian Governments announced a National Partnership Agreement on Homelessness. Under the Agreement the Australian Government will provide additional funding to the States and Territories to reduce homelessness who have agreed to match Commonwealth funding and deliver services and capital projects that will contribute to an overall reduction in homelessness.

The Commonwealth and South Australian Government will contribute **\$82.1 million** over four years to reduce homelessness under the Agreement. South Australia has developed an Implementation Plan setting out new initiatives and additional services which will make a substantial contribution toward the achievement of the 2013 interim targets to reduce homelessness.

The Implementation Plan

The South Australian Government has developed a strategic framework for this Implementation Plan in response to the Commonwealth Government's White Paper. The implementation of the National Partnership Agreement on Homelessness will enable both expansion and reinvigoration of current efforts across specialist homelessness services and mainstream services. The planned strategic reforms will need to make the most of the National Partnership Agreement on Homelessness funding so that provision of specialist homelessness services, mainstream services and housing are targeted, integrated, coordinated, sustainable and measurable. Initiatives include:

A Place to Call Home

- *Ladder* – to connect young people with training, education and employment outcomes which will be supported through a mentoring program provided by the AFL. Location: Western suburbs of Adelaide (40 young people per year).
- *Common Ground Port Augusta* – capital and recurrent funding for 40 units of accommodation over 4 years. The focus will be on intensive supports and connection with the community (40 households per year).

Aged Homelessness Assistance

- 48 state-wide homes will be provided for frail and aged homeless people. Location: state-wide (48 people per year).

The Safe Road Home

- A 10 unit accommodation facility will be built for women and children escaping domestic and family violence.
- Location: Metropolitan northern suburbs of Adelaide (120 families per year).

Reunification and Homelessness Prevention

- 3 purpose built facilities for young people aged 12-15 years focusing on reunification and shared care with capacity to extend outreach services (15 young people per year in supportive housing 24/7 staffed).

Perpetrator Housing Program

- 10 short term houses and support for perpetrators of domestic violence who are removed from the family home to allow women and children to remain / return home when safe (25-30 households per annum).

Aboriginal Transitional Accommodation

- Accommodation and access to essential health and other welfare services, for transient Indigenous people in a metropolitan and regional setting. This model will build on the existing service model implemented and delivered through Port Augusta (Lakeview) and Ceduna Town Camps (180 people per year).

Metropolitan Boarding House Service

- Assertive outreach to people living in public and privately owned boarding houses to support tenancies, assist vulnerable residents to establish links with community to move to stable, long term housing. Location: Adelaide (250 adults per year).

Child Focus Support

- Individual and group supports for the children accompanying adults within the specialist homelessness service sector. Location: state-wide (380 children per year).

Integrated Housing Exits Program

- 80 supported housing units (60 Adults / 20 Youth) with support packages for people exiting correctional facilities (80 people per year).

Homelessness Legal and Financial Clinic

- The Homelessness Legal and Financial Clinic will provide free legal advice and assistance to people experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness in relation to housing and other legal issues. This service will be provided by qualified legal and financial professionals. (250 people per year).

For more information on what the Australian Government is doing to reduce homelessness visit www.fahcsia.gov.au. For information on what the South Australian Government is doing to reduce homelessness or on specific initiatives call (08) 207 0118 or visit www.dfc.sa.gov.au