



## Responding to the White Paper

***The Federal Government's White Paper A Road Home and the National Affordable Housing Agreement (NAHA), the Homelessness National Partnership (Homelessness NP), the Social Housing National Partnership (Social Housing NP), and the National Partnership Agreement on the Nation Building and Jobs Plan (Stimulus Package) will mean substantial changes to the homelessness support system. States and territories have substantial responsibilities under these instruments. Most of their responsibilities for homelessness are subject to the Homelessness NP.***



**Homelessness Australia has identified 18 actions (see over) that proposes to take over the period of development and implementation of the White Paper's policy actions.**

Homelessness Australia will consult with key stakeholders, particularly state and territory peaks to refine these policies over the next few months. As more information becomes available, Homelessness Australia will update these policies.

A 'Survey of Members' in March will be used to prioritise the actions that we have identified in responding to the White Paper. The Policy Forum at the Face-to-Face meeting will be used to develop Homelessness Australia's key policy directions for the White Paper period.

Please contact the Policy and Research Officer at Homelessness Australia if you have any questions:

[policy@homelessnessaustralia.org.au](mailto:policy@homelessnessaustralia.org.au) or by phone at (02) 6247 7744

### Homelessness Australia proposes to:

1. Homelessness Australia will determine the process being undertaken to develop the new 'Homelessness Act' and will work with FaHCSIA and the Minister for Housing to ensure that the concerns of homeless services are addressed.
2. Homelessness Australia is already working with FaHCSIA to address the definitional problem in the White Paper and will stay involved in the process to ensure that it meets the cultural definition of homeless, as well as reflecting those people at risk of homelessness.
3. Homelessness Australia believes that it will be quite difficult to coordinate mainstream and specialist homelessness services. We would like to investigate how the Federal Government seeks to deliver this policy. We will argue for effective mechanisms to coordinate services and policies regardless of whether they are 'joined-up' or merely communicating better.
4. Homelessness Australia will engage with FaHCSIA to ensure that the mental health and alcohol and other drug policies that are implemented as a result of the White Paper are coherent and take account of the work other agencies are already conducting in these areas.
5. Homelessness Australia will work with State and Territory homeless peak bodies to assess the effects of new funding arrangements under the NAHA on the level of resources for specialist homelessness services.
6. Homelessness Australia will determine the process for the 'case mix' trial. We will work with FaHCSIA in reviewing the findings of the trial on the funding arrangements for specialist homelessness services.
7. Homelessness Australia will work with FaHCSIA to ensure that the National Child Protection Framework and the policies that arise out of the Homelessness White Paper are aligned. Key stakeholders that we will look to work with are the National Association for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (NAPCAN), which is involved in the development of the Framework.
8. Homelessness Australia will work with FaHCSIA and other relevant bodies to ensure consistency between the National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children and the Homelessness White Paper. This will include working with WESNET, one of our founding member organisations, which is a member of the National Council.
9. Homelessness Australia will lobby FaHCSIA and the Minister for Housing to address the underlying workforce issues in specialist homelessness services. This could include a pay and conditions survey done in collaboration with the Australian Services Union (ASU).
10. Homelessness Australia will work with FaHCSIA, state and territory homelessness peaks, and national health and justice peaks to determine a way forward on the 'no exits from homelessness' policy.
11. Homelessness Australia will work with Centrelink to shape the implementation of the initiatives they are responsible for in the White Paper.
12. Homelessness Australia will work with the ABS, the AIHW, FaHSCIA and the Minister for Housing to ensure that targets can be effectively measured at a state and territory and Federal level.
13. Homelessness Australia will work with FaHCSIA to ensure that the sector is engaged in the development of the new homelessness research strategy.
14. Homelessness Australia will work with FaHCSIA, the Tenant's Unions, the national network of Homeless Peoples Legal Centres/ Services to be involved in the discussions that lead to the modification of provisions relating to tenancy databases.
15. Homelessness Australia will work with FaHCSIA to ensure that the cost of the 'compulsory rent payments' policy is not disproportionate to its benefit.
16. Homelessness Australia will work with FaHCSIA to ensure that the 'compulsory rent payments' policy is not expanded to other classes of tenant without legitimate justifications. We will work with Tenants Unions and the national network of Homeless Persons Legal Centres / Services.
17. Homelessness Australia will lobby the Federal Government for sector representation on the Prime Minister's Council on Homelessness.
18. Homelessness Australia will build a relationship with the Prime Minister's Council on Homelessness and the Prime Minister's staff to ensure that the Council is diverse as well as effective.



## Creating a framework for ending homelessness



networking



Dedicated team



events



diversity



policy



large audience



issues



services

**Homelessness Australia**  
Contact: **Aileen Solowiej**

T 02 6247 7744  
E [media@homelessnessaustralia.org.au](mailto:media@homelessnessaustralia.org.au)  
MB 0405 385 431  
[www.homelessnessaustralia.org.au](http://www.homelessnessaustralia.org.au)

advocacy

