

Inform is a weekly e-bulletin of homelessness advocacy, research and policy from Homelessness Australia - the peak national body for the homelessness support sector

Highlights this edition

Applications for Research Funding Due 20 January 2010

FaHCSIA released the National Homelessness Research Guidelines and details of funding arrangements for the National Homelessness Research Agenda on 20 November. An invitation has been extended to interested organisations to apply for funding for projects that align with national research guidelines between 21 November 2009 and **20 January 2010**. Some \$5.5 million in funding will be provided to support the research agenda between 2009 and 2013. The *Housing Assistance and Homelessness Prevention* National Research Guidelines and Application Packs can be downloaded from the [FaHCSIA Website](#).

50% of New Social Housing to be allocated to Homeless

On Christmas Eve, Minister Plibersek announced that the Australian Government would commit to allocating 50% of the 19,200 houses to be constructed under the stimulus package to people who are either homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. Read more [here](#).

Tasmanian Homelessness Plan Released

The Tasmanian Government has released its 2010-2014 Homelessness Plan. The plan is one of six initiatives agreed to by the Australian and Tasmania Governments under the National Partnership agreement on homelessness. According to the Tasmanian Government; "The Plan is a whole-of-government and community approach to reducing and preventing homelessness in Tasmania. It will address the needs of all three categories of homelessness, primary, secondary and tertiary, focusing on providing early intervention and prevention support at key life events and transition points." The Tasmanian Government is seeking feedback about the plan between now and 26 February. To download the plan and/or submit your feedback, click [here](#).

Publications and resources

Along the Road Home

The Federal Government has released its 12 month progress report on implementation of the 2008 White Paper on homelessness. "The report gives an overview of the progress in breaking the cycle

through provision of affordable housing, turning off the tap through early interventions, and improving services, illustrated by compelling case studies and service descriptions. Click [here](#) to download and read the report.

Homelessness Australia issued a media release following the release of *Along the Road Home*, [read release here](#).

Youth Homelessness Paper Released

"Founded in early 2008, The Left Right Think-Tank is Australia's first independent and non-partisan think-tank of young minds. Its mission is to involve young people in public policy." With a team of twelve young people, Left Right Think Tank developed a policy paper on youth homelessness through extensive research and consultations. Perspectives were sought from young people experiencing homelessness, a broad range of service providers, and interested young people in the Brisbane metropolitan area. Click [here](#) to view and download the policy document.

In the news

Homelessness Australia Opinion Piece

In the first few days of the new decade, *The Australian* published a series of articles highlighting the enormity of the challenge of halving homelessness by 2020. In response, Homelessness Australia contacted the paper and was granted permission to submit an Op Ed piece in which our Executive Officer, Mr Simon Smith outlined the things that we believe need to happen in 2010 in order to ensure that we remain on track to meet the 2020 targets. To read the opinion piece click [here](#).

Halving Homelessness: Rash Vow or Overdue Goal

The third article on the issue of homelessness in Australia canvassed the views of a number of experts working in the homelessness sector who sought to answer the following question:

"The rise of homelessness in Australia has defied successive governments and touched the nation's social conscience. Now Kevin Rudd is promising to halve homeless numbers. How can it be done?" Read their thoughts in [The Australian](#).

"Let a hundred flowers bloom"

South Australia's Social Inclusion Commissioner Monsignor David Cappel responded to criticisms about the cost of the Common Ground model and its applicability as a solution to homelessness in the Australian context by outlining what he sees as the strengths of the Common Ground model and the 'Housing First' approach and calling for closer integration of housing and support services for people experiencing homelessness. Click here to read his opinion piece.

WA's new Homelessness Council

Information and advice on WA's current homelessness issues from this newly formed council will assist the WA State government in achieving WA's homelessness outcomes under the National Affordable Housing Agreement (NAHA) and the Homelessness National Partnership Agreement (NPA). [Read more here.](#)

Events

National LGBT Health Alliance

Contribute to *Health in Difference 2010!*

Present a paper or a workshop!

Time to finish off your presentation proposal!

Submissions close 29 January, [LGBT Conference](#)

Social Inclusion Conference

The Australian Government is hosting a Social Inclusion conference in Melbourne on 28 and 29 January 2010, click [here](#) to find out more.

National Affordable Housing Exchange

The Exchange will be held at Technology Park, Redfern, Sydney, NSW on 18-19 February 2009. For more information visit the Community Housing Federation of Australia conference [website](#).

National Indigenous Drugs and Alcohol Conference

Adelaide Convention Centre 16-18 June 2010.

To find out more click [here](#).

6th National Homelessness Conference

Many Ways Home: Ending Homelessness by 2020

Homelessness Australia

September 2010, Brisbane. [Click here](#)