



Homelessness Australia

Creating a framework for ending homelessness

MEDIA RELEASE

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STRETCHING THEIR DOLLARS FURTHER: WEEKLY PAYMENTS MEASURE WELCOME

Homelessness Australia has welcomed today's announcement by the Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services, and Indigenous Affairs, the Hon. Jenny Macklin, MP, to allow 'vulnerable Australians' voluntary weekly income support payments.

Homelessness Australia believes that the initiative will benefit some eligible recipients of income support payments who have difficulty budgeting or because of the high cost of living, exhaust their payments before the end of each fortnight.

"We are pleased to see that the Government has delivered on another commitment made in its homelessness White Paper, *The Road Home*. We think that this initiative has the potential to benefit a significant number of Centrelink customers who would prefer to receive their income support payments on a weekly basis" Executive Officer Simon Smith said.

Homelessness Australia will examine the proposed amendments that will provide for an adjustment in the frequency of income support payments to enable some recipients to be paid on a weekly basis.

"Homelessness Australia looks forward to working with the Government as the option of weekly payments is made available to customers, we see this as a constructive approach that offers customers some choice, unlike other proposals such as compulsory income management" Mr Smith said.

Simon Smith, Executive Officer

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