



# Homelessness and Remote Indigenous Housing National Partnerships

## Homelessness National Partnership

Funding of \$104.79 million over four years will support a package of new services and initiatives in partnership with the Commonwealth Government to strengthen and diversify the response to homelessness in Victoria.

In addition to this funding, \$15.6 million in new funding is being provided to support mental health reform initiatives targeting homelessness and \$1.6 million in new funding is allocated to the Court Integrated Service Program to support those who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. These initiatives will focus on prevention and target a range of demographics including those experiencing primary homelessness (sleeping rough). Specific initiatives will be delivered through three key strategies.

### *Boosting prevention and early intervention – \$36.33 million*

- Initiatives will focus on key transitions where people are at risk of homelessness such as young people leaving care and people exiting prison. Efforts will also focus on improving the understanding of other mainstream services (such as health services) on actions that prevent homelessness.
- Expansion of support services for people to establish and maintain their tenancies. This will assist and support people to maintain their housing, breaking the cycle of homelessness, and will link to new social housing developments.
- Specialist responses will be established for children and families with a particular focus on financial assistance for families and keeping children engaged in school, in addition to a strengthening of family reconciliation services.

### *Improving and expanding service to homeless Victorians – \$52.57 million*

The Victorian Government's investment in improving and expanding services to homeless Victorians recognises the importance of workforce development and career progression for workers in homelessness services. Targeted responses for specific groups such as women and children experiencing family violence, Aboriginal people and young people will also be strengthened and enhanced.

In addition to investment in the specialist homelessness service system, the Victorian Government is strengthening the response to homelessness in mainstream services including:

- psychosocial support packages under mental health reform initiatives targeting people with a severe and enduring mental illness who are at risk of homelessness
- new funding invested in the Courts Integrated Services Program that targets groups that are over represented in our legal system including people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

## *Breaking the cycle of homelessness – \$15.89 million*

The experience of homelessness can become deeply entrenched, requiring intensive and long term support combined with accommodation. The Victorian Government will establish services targeting this group with pathways to long term sustainable housing to effectively break the cycle of homelessness.

## Meeting the National Partnership Agreement requirements

The following initiatives form part of the National Partnership Agreement on Homelessness:

- \$8.5 million for the Opening Doors project to assist people experiencing homelessness or in housing crisis to better access social housing and support service, establishing access points, and twenty new assessment and planning workers.
- Support for vulnerable tenancies in social housing (\$5.4 million) to roll out the successful Support for High Risk Tenancies pilot. This initiative assists people with complex needs, including mental illness, drug and alcohol, health and behavioural problems that require intensive support from a range of different services to assist them to stay in long-term housing.
- Psychosocial Support Packages for the chronically homeless (\$7.2 million) to target people with a severe and enduring mental illness who are at risk of homelessness.
- Family Violence – \$11.5 million to build on the substantial work undertaken in partnership with the Aboriginal community this initial investment commences implementation of the long term plan to address Aboriginal family violence. The Government developed with the Indigenous Family Violence Partnership Forum a 10 year plan to address Aboriginal family violence in response to the Victorian Indigenous Family Violence Taskforce Report (2003).

## Remote Indigenous Housing National Partnership

Under the Remote Indigenous Housing National Partnership Agreement Victoria will receive \$17.85 million in the first five years, of the 10 year funding strategy (\$30.35 million) to support the transfer of responsibility for Indigenous Community Housing Infrastructure Program to the Victorian government. Victoria will seek to develop the capacity of organisations to deliver effective tenancy and property management services. In 2009-10 funding will be provided to ensure all properties are at an appropriate standard, to improve housing outcomes for Indigenous Victorians.