



# Homelessness Reforms - Tasmania

Issue 2, June 2010

**W**elcome to the second newsletter on Homelessness Reforms within Tasmania.

The Tasmanian Homelessness Implementation Plan was announced under the National Partnership Agreement on Homelessness in July 2009. Tasmania's new homelessness initiatives target people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. They include long term housing and increasing support for those with multiple and complex needs.

There is also a focus on improved coordination and integration of services and working with mainstream services to prevent and respond to homelessness. Housing Tasmania is working with services which share target groups to ensure that there are effective partnerships without gaps or duplication. This may involve developing policies and protocols with relevant services.

The six initiatives within the Homelessness Implementation Plan are:

- Specialist intervention tenancy services
- Dedicated homeless facilities
- Tasmanian Homelessness Plan
- Same House Different Landlord
- Improvements in service coordination and provision
- Workforce capacity audit and development plan

Further background information on the national housing and homelessness reforms is available in the earlier Homelessness Reforms Newsletter and on the National Housing Reforms website:

[http://www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/about\\_the\\_department/structure/operational\\_units/housing\\_tasmania/programs\\_and\\_strategies/national\\_housing\\_reforms](http://www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/about_the_department/structure/operational_units/housing_tasmania/programs_and_strategies/national_housing_reforms)

Recent activities include:

## **National Quality Framework**

The Australian Government has undertaken regional consultation sessions to seek feedback from Specialist Homelessness Services and mainstream services on the delivery of quality services for homeless people. A Discussion Paper was released and Tasmanian consultations were held in Hobart and Launceston in March. The sessions were very well attended.

Reports from the consultation will soon be available on the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA) website.

Feedback will be included in a more detailed discussion paper which will be released later in 2010. The paper will identify several possible options for a national quality framework and provide an analysis of the relative costs and benefits of those options. A second round of consultations based on this detailed discussion paper will lead to a preferred option for a national quality framework.

## **Homelessness Round Table**

Earlier this year, Homelessness Australia hosted a series of Ministerial Roundtables to discuss progress with implementing the White Paper (The Road Home) in each jurisdiction.

Each Roundtable involved Federal Minister Hon Tanya Plibersek meeting with homelessness sector representatives along with officials from Australian and State/Territory Government to discuss progress to date with implementation in



each jurisdiction.

The Round Table was held in Tasmania in March 2010 and involved significant discussion in relation to Tasmania's Implementation Plan and relevant initiatives, future directions for Specialist Homelessness Services and progress in making homelessness everyone's business.

## On track to halve rough sleepers in Tasmania

The Tasmanian Government is still on track to provide over 193 places for rough sleepers in Tasmania by the end of 2010.

In total, 231 places will be provided for rough sleepers by December 2010. Some of the specific projects targeting homelessness to address our commitment include:

- 100 dwellings state-wide for the Same House Different Landlord Program which will roll out between October and December
- 30 units of accommodation at Bayview Lodge Rosny which will be tenanted shortly
- 20 units of accommodation at Grove Street Ulverstone by the end of the year
- 20 units of accommodation at Thistle Street Launceston by the end of the year
- 35 units of accommodation at Bilton Lodge Claremont (made available earlier in the commitment)
- 26 additional units to three existing services targeting people who are homelessness services.

Three additional new facilities providing 55 units of supported accommodation are due for completion in 2011.

Combined, all of these initiatives will provide 286 units of accommodation for rough sleepers. This will exceed the target of housing 193 rough sleepers.

There has also been considerable activity on four key initiatives under the Tasmanian Homelessness Implementation Plan.

## Same House Different Landlord program

The Same House Different Landlord program will provide a tenancy and property management service to 100 properties statewide. This will become a long term housing option to prevent people experiencing repeat episodes of homelessness.

A selection process is currently underway, with a service provider to be determined by the end of July 2010.

It is anticipated there will be an incremental start up across the state with all properties available by December 2010.

## Specialist Intervention Tenancy Service

The Specialist Intervention Tenancy Service will provide intensive support to people in the Same House Different Landlord properties. People likely to be assisted through these initiatives are especially vulnerable to homelessness: young people leaving the care and protection system, youth justice facilities, adults leaving prison, and people who have experienced chronic homeless.

Housing Tasmania is pleased to announce that Centacare in partnership with the Australian Red Cross has been selected through a Request for Proposal process to deliver the Service across Tasmania. The Federal Member for Denison, Duncan Kerr, and the Secretary to Cabinet with responsibility for Housing, Cassy O'Connor, launched the new service at Centacare Offices on 22 May 2010.

It is anticipated that the Service will commence in July 2010.



Housing Tasmania and the new service providers will establish linkages with existing services and develop business processes in the coming months.



*A Centacare worker providing support to a client.*

## Supported Accommodation Facilities

Work on establishing five new Supported Accommodation Facilities across Tasmania is progressing well. (The facilities were previously called Dedicated Homeless Facilities).

Common Ground Tasmania will manage the Hobart facilities at Liverpool and Campbell Streets and are currently establishing the operational models ready to procure a service provider. It is anticipated that the Hobart facilities will be completed in the second half of

2011.

Proposals for all Supported Accommodation Facilities have been publicly advertised which provided opportunity for public comment and feedback.

A Communication Strategy has been developed to provide a coordinated approach to managing communication issues associated with the new Supported Accommodation Facilities, and discussions are taking place with key local community and business groups of each site.

As a component of the Communication Strategy, open days have been held at the proposed Campbell Street, York Street and Grove Street sites. These have been well attended and included good community engagement; this has been in addition to the informal discussions held with local stakeholders of each site.

Request for Proposal processes to determine service providers for the Launceston and Ulverstone facilities will now commence later this year, closer to when the facilities will be completed.

## Tasmanian Homelessness Plan

The Tasmanian Homelessness Plan outlines a whole-of-government, whole-of-community approach to homelessness. The Plan was launched by the then Minister for Human Services, Lin Thorp MLC on Friday 18 December 2009.

Consultations on the Tasmanian Homelessness Plan were held in February 2010 with mainstream and Specialist Homelessness Services. There was an excellent response, with over 100 people participating across the state. In addition, eight written submissions were received and 18 targeted stakeholder meetings were held with government and non-government agencies, all



indicating excellent commitment to intent of the Plan.

Over 200 potential actions are described in the feedback: some are existing commitments and some are proposed for discussion. The feedback and potential actions have been analysed and an Implementation Plan is currently being developed.

It is taking some time to ensure that the actions are prioritised, achievable within budget and timeframes, and that responsible Departments commit to deliver the actions.

The timeframe for release of the Implementation Plan is now August 2010.



Artists impression of Grove Street, Ulverstone, Supported Accommodation Facility.

## **Other Initiatives**

Project development continues for the improvements in service coordination and provision initiative. Further

updates will be provided as the initiative is progressed.

## **Key Dates**

July 2010	Same House Different Landlord program service provider determined
August 2010	Tasmanian Homelessness Plan Implementation Plan released
July - October 2010	Specialist Intervention Tenancy Service and Same House Different Landlord program commences incrementally statewide
Late 2010	Supported Accommodation Facilities Request for Proposal released

## **More Information**

The Homelessness Implementation Plan is available at: [http://www.federalfinancialrelations.gov.au/content/national\\_partnership\\_agreements/housing.aspx](http://www.federalfinancialrelations.gov.au/content/national_partnership_agreements/housing.aspx)

Housing Reform website:

[http://www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/about\\_the\\_department/structure/operational\\_units/housing\\_tasmania/programs\\_and\\_strategies/national\\_housing\\_reforms](http://www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/about_the_department/structure/operational_units/housing_tasmania/programs_and_strategies/national_housing_reforms)

Housing Innovations Unit website:

[http://www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/future\\_communities/housing\\_innovations\\_unit](http://www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/future_communities/housing_innovations_unit)

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