



# MEDIA RELEASE

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## Homelessness services under threat in Tasmania

In the lead up to the March election, the peak body for the housing and homelessness sector has today called for the major parties to guarantee that vital homelessness services will continue to operate in the State.

Shelter Tasmania warned that several important supported accommodation facilities are at risk of closure, as their funding is not allocated beyond June 2014.

“When the National Partnership Agreement on Homelessness expires in June this year, \$3million will disappear from the State’s annual homelessness budget unless State and Federal governments commit to funding,” Shelter Tasmania EO Pattie Chugg said.

Ms Chugg said, “The vital services under threat are those that provide intensive tenancy supports to people who were recently chronically homeless and who have multiple and complex needs. These are the people most at risk of returning to homelessness in our community.”

Tenancy support has demonstrated many positive social and economic outcomes for the whole community, such as; increased rates of employment, training and education amongst clients, decreased drug and alcohol misuse, and increased social engagement.

“We have proof of the positive outcomes these services have provided. The data shows significant improvements and change for the vast majority of tenants, and we are very concerned that should funding cease, many Tasmanians will fall into the gaps and slip back through a service system where they will receive little or no support,” said Ms Chugg.

In addition to lobbying for a commitment to secure ongoing funding for the State’s supported accommodation facilities, Shelter Tasmania will be calling for commitments to other much needed affordable housing and homelessness measures:

- Strengthening the community housing sector
- Dedicated youth crisis accommodation for under 16 year olds
- Broadening private rental assistance eligibility
- Expansion of home purchasing schemes for low-income Tasmanians.

**For further information contact Pattie Chugg**

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**Shelter Tasmania is the Peak Body for Housing and Homelessness Services across Tasmania [www.shelertas.org.au](http://www.shelertas.org.au)**