

Travelling on the Road Home:
let's make sure we don't lose
our way

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Homelessness NSW



Framing homelessness



Being homeless is a complex issue, created by the failure of a variety of service systems. Homeless people and those at risk of becoming homeless are affected by common themes that include social exclusion, an ineffective service system, lack of access to housing that is affordable to people on low incomes and a lack of support and supported accommodation services.

Persons Recorded as Experiencing Homelessness in Different Living Circumstances on Census Night, Australia, 2001 and 2006

	2001	%	2006	%
SAAP	14,251	14	19,849	19
Sleeping out	14,158	14	16,375	16
Friends & relatives	48,614	49	46,856	45
Boarding Houses	22,877	23	21,596	20
	99,990	100	104,676	100

How is the 27,374 homeless in NSW configured?

	2001 %	2006 %
SAAP	15	19
Sleeping out	11	13
Friends & relatives	45	40
Boarding Houses	29	28
	100	100

The White Paper: The Road Home



- Released on 21 Dec 08
- Delivers on Kevin Rudd's pre election commitment
- Is bold and aspirational
- Frames homelessness as every ones' business for the first time

White paper pluses



- Political will
- New money
 - ▣ \$1.2 billion Homelessness National Partnership (NSW - \$204 million over 4 years)
 - ▣ \$6.4 billion Nation Building & Jobs Plan (NSW - \$2 billion, 6500 social housing properties + \$130 million for repairs & maintenance over 2-3 years)
- Once in a generation opportunity

White Paper - questions



- Global Financial Crisis
- Things getting worse – data lag
- New homeless
- How do we build an integrated service system?

The Road Home



- TARGETS: Headline Goals

- Halve overall homelessness by 2020

- Have accommodation available to all rough sleepers who ask for it by 2020

Interim targets: 2013



- People seeking specialist homeless services more than 3 times in a year reduced by 25%
- People exiting care and custodial settings into homelessness is reduced by 25%
- People exiting social housing and private rental into homelessness is reduced by 25%
- People engaged in employment / education training after presenting to homelessness services in increased by 50%

Interim targets: 2013



- People who are homeless or at risk who receive legal services is increased by 25%
- Families who are homeless or at risk who receive financial advice, counseling and/or case management is increased by 25%
- Number of children who are homeless or at risk provided with additional support and engaged in education is increased by 50%
- Families who maintain or secure safe and sustainable housing following domestic or family violence is increased by 20%

The Road Home



□ Strategic Directions

- Turning off the Tap: Services will intervene early to prevent homelessness
- Improving & Expanding Services: services will be more connected and responsive to achieve sustainable housing, improve economic and social participation and end homelessness for their clients
- Breaking the cycle: people who become homeless will move quickly through the crisis system to stable housing with the support they need so that homelessness does not recur.

How to achieve targets – Homelessness NSW's thoughts



□ Local solutions for local issues

- We can not have one size fits all - whilst significant population in in the GMR, we must not forget regional & rural NSW in our planning
- But problematic – access to resources
- Needs a top down and bottom up approach to work – state policy framework to inform the local planning

The issue of rough sleeping



- From 2006 Census
 - 366 – City of Sydney (26 sq km)
 - 186 – Tweed (1 303 sq km)
 - 130 – Bega Valley (6 052 sq km)
 - 80 – Kempsey (3 381 sq km)
 - Different policy responses required!

How to achieve targets – Homelessness

NSW's thoughts



□ Housing support

- Access to appropriate, affordable and safe housing is essential in preventing and resolving homelessness.
- South Australia has experience in the development and delivery of funded programs to support tenants identified at risk of homelessness in social housing tenancies.
- HASI is a good example of what works for people with mental illness

How to achieve targets – Homelessness

NSW's thoughts - continued

□ Exiting into homelessness: ex-prisoners

- The Road Home identifies those serving sentences of over 2 years as the primary target
- NSW experience – 20% remand, 50+% less than 1 year
- Those more in need – less likely to receive
- Develop effective models of support to be implemented pre-release, ensuring that people exiting prison receive support and advice on housing assistance, mental health, education, drug and alcohol support and any other relevant issues

How to achieve targets – Homelessness NSW's thoughts - continued

□ Homeless people with mental illness

- Mental illness clearly highly represented within the homeless population
- SAAP data client self – report [under representation in data]
- New evidence to show that homelessness causes mental illness
- Issue of service access across NSW
- *HASI for the Homeless* – brokerage model allowing purchase of services as required

Building a service system for the future



- Building a strong base for advocacy & change management
 - ▣ Australians for Ending Homelessness
 - ▣ NSW Homelessness Community Alliance
 - ▣ Street Care
- Assisting in the development of the NSW Homelessness Action Plan / State Plan
- Maintaining stamina to keep up with the process of change!