



# National Housing and Homelessness Agreement

The Australian Government is introducing a new National Housing and Homelessness Agreement (NHHA) with States and Territories to improve housing and homelessness outcomes for all Australians across the housing spectrum, particularly those most in need.

The NHHA will provide \$4.6 billion in Commonwealth funding to the States and Territories over the next three years, including \$375 million for homelessness services which States will be required to match. Funding for homelessness services will be ongoing and indexed for the first time, to provide certainty to front line services that help Australians who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.

To ensure the funding provided to the States is used efficiently and effectively to maximise outcomes, the NHHA will seek to enhance accountability and transparency across States and Territories.

## Is there any reduction in Commonwealth funding to the States for housing and homelessness?

No. The funding available under the Agreement will be ongoing and indexed annually.

Homelessness services will be given an additional \$375 million over three years from 2018-19 in new indexed funding, to be matched by the States and Territories.

## Why is the Government introducing a new Agreement?

The NHHA is an important step to better accountability and transparency for the Commonwealth's financial contribution to States and Territories for housing and homelessness services and programs across the housing spectrum.

The Commonwealth currently provides more than \$1.4 billion per annum to States and Territories for housing assistance and homelessness services through the National Specific Purpose Payment (NSPP) for Housing Services in support of the National Affordable Housing Agreement (NAHA) and the National Partnership Agreement on Homelessness (NPAH).

Despite this significant funding, the Council of Australian Governments' (COAG) 2016 Report on Performance indicated

that three out of the four benchmarks, against which the NAHA is assessed, were not on track or unlikely to be met.

## What will States and Territories be required to do in order to receive funding under the NHHA?

The Australian Government is committed to providing funding to improve housing and homelessness outcomes.

Funding will flow to the States and Territories provided they:

- sign up to the Agreement and a bilateral schedule with the Commonwealth;
- have publicly available housing and homelessness strategies;
- contribute to improving data and transparent reporting; and
- match homelessness funding in line with current arrangements under the NPAH.

These requirements will be set out in the *Federal Financial Relations Act 2009*.

## Why is the Government requiring States and Territories to sign bilateral schedules as well as a multilateral agreement?

The multilateral NHHA will outline the objective and outcomes which the Commonwealth, States and Territories agree are important at a national level.

Bilateral schedules recognising the different housing and homelessness priorities in each jurisdiction will set out how each State and Territory proposes to implement the reforms, initiatives and policies to contribute to the outcomes and the outputs under the NHHA.

## When will the NHHA begin?

The NHHA is expected to commence on 1 July 2018.

Bilateral schedules between the Commonwealth and each State and Territory will be renewed at least every five years to ensure they continue to reflect housing and homelessness priorities.