

The Treasury, the Hon Josh Frydenberg MP
Langton Crescent
PARKES ACT 2600
Australia

28 January 2022

Dear Treasurer,

We write to you to seek funding in the 2022-2023 Commonwealth Government Budget to enable the Australian Alliance to End Homelessness (AAEH) to support communities across the nation to identify and end rough sleeping homelessness by making it rare, brief and a one-time occurrence.

AAEH is regularly contacted by local communities seeking support for working together to end homelessness by using the [Advance to Zero Homelessness](#) methodology, pioneered successfully in over sixty communities in the United States of America (USA) and Canada so far. It has only been through the efforts of member organisations of AAEH that we have been able to do so through largely voluntary and philanthropic efforts. Already hundreds of people have been housed and sustained housing through the combination of using connections week [data](#) to inform new investment locally, and in developing appropriate health care and community services to support people when housed.

Please find attached a proposal that has been discussed with the former ministers for homelessness and veteran's affairs, as well as put to the current minister for homelessness. The proposal seeks \$3.5 million in seed funding.

The case for this investment:

- Despite record investments in homelessness programs and services by Australian Governments homelessness is increasing.
- We know that people use \$13,100 less in government-funded services per year when securely housed compared to the services they used when they were chronically homeless.
- An unknown number of people are dying whilst sleeping rough.
- There is a lack of transparency about the outcomes that existing investments are delivering.

- We know that focusing on veterans rough sleeping homelessness works. A growing number of communities in the USA and Canada have demonstrated this.
- There is a focus on measuring the services provided and program outcomes rather than a focus on population level reductions in homelessness by measuring system level outcomes.
- There is a lack of integration of local service systems such as health, housing, corrections, ex-service organisations, specialist homelessness services, employment, and other community services.
- When rough sleeping homelessness is left unaddressed, community demands often lead to a criminalisation of the issue rather than to solutions that address the root causes of the problem.

AAEH believes now is the time to do something different by supporting this initiative and to build upon local efforts that have already begun through investment into the National Advance to Zero Campaign in the 2022-2023 Commonwealth Government Budget.

We would be pleased to discuss this proposal further and provide any additional information you may need.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "D Pearson".

David Pearson, CEO
Australian Alliance to End Homelessness

CC: Assistant Treasurer, Minister for Homelessness, Social and Community Housing, the Hon Michael Sukkar MP