

ACT Project Plan 2017-18

NATIONAL PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT ON HOMELESSNESS : SCHEDULE A

PRELIMINARIES

1. This Project Plan is a schedule to the National Partnership Agreement on Homelessness (the Agreement) and should be read in conjunction with that Agreement.

TERMS OF THIS PROJECT PLAN

2. This Project Plan will commence on 1 July 2017 or when it is agreed between the Commonwealth of Australia, represented by the Minister for Social Services, and the Australian Capital Territory (ACT), represented by the Minister for Housing and Suburban Development, whichever is the later, and will cease on completion or termination of the Agreement.
3. As a schedule to the Agreement, the purpose of this Project Plan is to provide the public with an indication of how frontline homelessness services are intended to be delivered and demonstrate the ACT's capacity to achieve the outcomes of the Agreement.
4. This Project Plan will cover the one year period from 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018.
5. This Project Plan may be varied in accordance with clauses 23, 47, 49 and 50.

PART ONE: STRATEGIC OVERVIEW OF IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

Table 1: Strategic overview of implementation

1. What is the relevant context for the ACT, including any reform directions being taken to improve homelessness outcomes?

ACT Government expenditure on specialist homelessness services is estimated to be \$20.3 million in 2017-18. NPAH funding is an important component of this expenditure as it is used to address service gaps.

The ACT Government's Better Services Framework provides the structure for integrated service delivery in the ACT and it ensures that people receive the right support, at the right time, and for the right duration. The Better Services Framework supports the delivery of ACT Government reform priorities, including the National Disability Insurance Scheme, new models of social investment, and the Safer Families Package. In the ACT social housing and homelessness services work together with mainstream services to provide a person-centred, support focussed approach to building the strength and capacity of families and individuals. A specialist homelessness services program of review and co-design process led by Housing ACT in 2016 positioned the specialist homelessness sector as a secondary intervention provider within the Better Services Framework. This ensures that people experiencing homelessness receive an improved risk and needs assessment and increased support while sustaining their tenancies with more flexibility in allocation, maximised use of accommodation and better management of transition.

The Commonwealth focus on domestic violence through homelessness service delivery represents a small proportion of the ACT Government's spending in this area. The ACT Government's Safer Families Package of \$21.42 million reflects the ACT Government's commitment to the Second Implementation Plan for the ACT Prevention of Violence against Women and Children Strategy 2011-2017. Building on the work already done, the Office of the Coordinator General for Family Safety is leading a whole-of-government effort to improve outcomes for women and children affected by domestic and family violence. Included in the Safer Families package is funding for the Domestic Violence Crisis Service and Canberra Rape Crisis Centre, translating and interpreting services for family violence specialist services, a brokerage and bond fund to assist victims with immediate expenses.

In addition to the \$21.42 million Safer Families Package, roughly \$4.6 million (2017-18) of ACT homelessness funding is specifically targeted to women (with or without children) for accommodation and specialist support.

Another \$590,000 (2017-18) is provided to the Domestic Violence Crisis Service for Room4Change, an innovative therapeutic residential behaviour change program for men who use violence. This program that actively supports women and children who have been subjected to domestic or family violence to remain safely in the family home.

2. What frontline services or programmes will the ACT deliver in 2017-18 to meet the outcomes of the Agreement?

The ACT supports the Commonwealth's priority focus on initiatives that address domestic violence and youth homelessness in National Partnership Agreement on Homelessness. The ACT also supports the continuing focus on services designed to address a range of factors contributing to homelessness in the Territory.

In 2017-18, the ACT Government will deliver the following services to meet the outcomes of the Agreement:

- Sustaining Tenancies Service: Intensive case management and early intervention targeted at those at risk of losing their housing and becoming homeless.
- Heira Domestic Violence Supported Accommodation Program: Accommodation and support for women experiencing domestic violence.
- The Managed Accommodation Program: Accommodation and support for single men exiting the corrections system.
- Our Place: Youth Integrated Education Accommodation program providing accommodation and support for young people to engage in education and training.
- OneLink (Central Access Point): Central information and access point for the ACT Specialist Homelessness Sector.
- Street to Home: Assertive engagement for people experiencing chronic homelessness (particularly rough sleepers) helping them to re-engage with support services to establish and sustain a successful tenancy.
- The Head Lease Program: Specialised support for public housing tenants at risk of eviction to manage and sustain their tenancies.
- Beryl Women Inc: Accommodation and support for women in need of immediate safety due to domestic or family violence.
- Doris Women's Refuge: Accommodation and support for women in need of immediate safety due to domestic or family violence.

3. How will the ACT focus on the priority outputs, including where this will draw on any new or current innovative approaches?

The ACT will address the Commonwealth's domestic and family violence priority by allocating funding to three well established and effective accommodation and support services for women escaping domestic violence:

- Heira Domestic Violence Supported Accommodation Program provides accommodation, case management and support including advocacy, referrals and help with safety planning. Assistance may include help to: access legal orders; address immigration issues; budget; build a community support network; and obtain independent, stable accommodation;
- Beryl Women Inc supports women (with or without accompanying children) who are in need of immediate safety due to domestic or family violence; and
- Doris Women's Refuge supports women (with or without accompanying children) who are in need of immediate safety due to domestic or family violence.

The Commonwealth's youth priority will be met through continued funding of Our Place which supports young people who have experienced, or been at risk of, homelessness. The program provides an integrated service delivery response to young people aged 16-25, through supported accommodation and case management, to ensure they remain engaged in education or training. Young people must be studying (e.g. at school, university or TAFE) or undertaking an apprenticeship to access the program.

4. Which geographical area(s) will the ACT prioritise in 2017-18 when considering allocation of funding to the priority outputs listed at clause 15(a), 15(b) and 15(c) of the Agreement, and what services are being provided to these areas?

There are no geographical areas in the Territory where significant need has been identified, that requires specific allocation of NPAH funding for the priority outputs.

Previous analysis has shown the Socio-economic Indexes for Individuals (SEIFI) provides a better measure of relative socio-economic disadvantage in Canberra than the area based measure SEIFA. This is because the ACT has one of the highest proportions of 'diverse' suburbs, where some of the most advantaged and disadvantaged individuals live in the same neighbourhood. Instead of 'averaging out' the disadvantage in a defined area, the SEIFI measure reveals small pockets of disadvantage across the ACT. As a small jurisdiction with dispersed pockets of disadvantage, specialist homelessness services have not been established on the basis of disadvantaged geographical areas, as may occur in larger jurisdictions.

Everyone living in the ACT has access to specialist homelessness services through the extensive public transport network. All NPAH services listed in Table 2 below provide coverage across ACT postcodes: 2600-2612; 2614-2618; 2620; 2900-2906; 2911-2914.

5. Broadly, what level of NPAH funding does the ACT expect to allocate to domestic and family violence, and youth homelessness in 2017-18

2017-18: \$994,870 (32%) direct allocation to:

- Heira Domestic Violence Supported Accommodation Program (\$340,926);
- Beryl Women Inc (\$100,000);
- Doris Women's Refuge (\$100,000); and
- Our Place (\$453,944).

The 2017-18 NPAH increases the ACT Government's commitment to domestic and family violence and youth homelessness in 2015-17 NPAH from 28% to 33%.

6. What is the expected level of homelessness service delivery expenditure for the ACT under the NPAH in 2017-18?

2017-18 Total: \$3.10 million in matched Commonwealth and ACT Government contributions (including SACS award)

PART TWO: IMPLEMENTATION INFORMATION FOR INITIATIVES, AND EXPECTED REPORTING

Table 2: Description of initiatives including services funding under each initiative

	*Initiative Title	Short description of Initiative	Output/s addressed (refer to Clause 15 of NP)	Name of Service Provider/s	In-scope for SHSC – Yes/No	Seeking Exemption – Yes/No	*** Exemption Granted by C'wealth – Yes/No	Requirement for SHSC exempt services and services not in scope: Estimated yearly number of clients to be assisted by service
1	Supportive Tenancy Service (STS)	This service provides intensive case management for over 700 clients across a range of tenures, including social housing, private rental and home ownership. The service has a strong focus on early intervention and is targeted at those at risk of losing their housing and becoming homeless.	15(k)	Woden Community Service in partnership with Belconnen Community Service and the Young Women's Christian Association	Yes	No	NA	NA
2	Heira Domestic Violence Supported Accommodation Program - Heira	This service provides accommodation, case management and support to women escaping domestic violence. Support includes advocacy, referrals and help with safety planning.	15(a)	Toora Women Inc	Yes	No	NA	NA
3	Managed Accommodation Program (MAP)	This service provides accommodation, case management and support for up to 15 single men exiting the ACT corrections system. Key outcomes of the program include securing and maintaining long-term accommodation, improving basic living skills, addressing complex health and substance abuse issues, and re-engaging with their families and communities.	15(i)		Yes	No	NA	NA

4	Youth Integrated Education and Accommodation Program – 'Our Place'	This service provides a robust and innovative response to youth homelessness, incorporating elements of the Foyer model. The program provides an integrated service delivery response to young people up to age 21, through supported accommodation and case management, to ensure they remain engaged in education or training for a min of 25 hrs per week.	15(b)	Barnardos and Anglicare.	Yes	No	NA	NA
5	OneLink (Central Access Point)	This Service is the central information/access point for the ACT Specialist Homelessness Sector from 1 July 2016.	15(l)	Woden Community Service	Yes	No	NA	NA
6	Street to Home	This service assertively engages people experiencing chronic homelessness (particularly 'rough sleepers'), helping them to re-engage with support services to establish and sustain a successful tenancy.	15(h)	St Vincent De Paul	Yes	No	NA	NA
7	The Head Lease Program	This program supports public housing tenants at risk of eviction who require specialised support to manage and sustain their tenancy.	15(d) 15(g) 11(k)	Current Head Lease- Barnardos EveryMan Toora St Vincent de Paul Catholic Care	Yes	No	NA	NA
8	Beryl Women Inc	This service is a women's refuge. The service supports women (with/without accompanying children) who are in need of immediate safety due to domestic or family violence.	15(a) 15(c)	Beryl Women Inc	Yes	No	NA	NA
9	Doris Women's Refuge	This service is a women's refuge. The service supports women (with/without accompanying children) who are in need of immediate safety due to domestic or family violence.	15(a) 15 (c)	Doris Women's Refuge	Yes	No	NA	NA

***Please note: Initiatives can have numerous programs or projects with different service providers that are delivering specific shared outcomes with time and cost constraints.**

****Please note: The Commonwealth acknowledges that funding allocated to addressing domestic and family violence, and youth homelessness may span across outputs other than the priority outputs listed at 15 (a), 15 (b) and 15 (c) of the Agreement.**

*****Please note: Where an exemption has been granted by the Commonwealth under the 2015-17 NPAH and this is sought again, the jurisdiction should indicate in this column that this has been granted by the Commonwealth (unless significant changes to the circumstances of the Service Provider have occurred).**

*****Please note: Address and service coverage area, and NPAH funding information columns (including funding allocated to priority outputs) will not be made publicly available.**

Expected reports, reviews or evaluations

In accordance with clause 30(a) and 31 of the Agreement, a final update is to be provided to the Commonwealth based on the monitoring and assessment of progress against this Project Plan, and any evaluations and reviews of services and outputs delivered. Details of any expected reports, reviews or evaluations of initiatives are to be listed in Table 3.

Table 3: List of information expected to contribute to the final update to the Commonwealth.

Item no.	Short description of expected item	Expected timeframe
1	Common Ground Evaluation – The Common Ground Canberra, a new purpose built 40 unit dwelling was funded through the 2013-14 NPAH Development Fund and private sector and community donations. The 50 per cent mix of formerly homeless tenants and 50 per cent of tenants able to pay affordable rent has created a normalised environment for people who have been cycling in and out of homelessness. The support provided to maintain their tenancy and improve living skills has enabled tenants' capacity building and fuller participation in the social and economic life of the community.	2017

