

TRANSITIONAL NATIONAL PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT ON HOMELESSNESS – 2017-18

An agreement between

- the Commonwealth of Australia and
- the States and Territories, being:
 - ◆ New South Wales
 - ◆ Victoria
 - ◆ Queensland
 - ◆ Western Australia
 - ◆ South Australia
 - ◆ Tasmania
 - ◆ the Australian Capital Territory
 - ◆ the Northern Territory

This Agreement will contribute to reducing the rate of homelessness in Australia.

Transitional National Partnership Agreement on Homelessness 2017-18

OVERVIEW

1. This National Partnership (the Agreement) is created subject to the provisions of the Intergovernmental Agreement on Federal Financial Relations (IGA FFR) and should be read in conjunction with that Agreement and its Schedules, which provide information in relation to performance reporting and payment arrangements under the IGA FFR.

Purpose

2. In entering this Agreement, the Commonwealth and the States and Territories (the States) recognise they have a mutual interest in improving outcomes in the rate of homelessness in Australia and need to work together to achieve this outcome.
3. This is a one-year transitional Agreement for 2017-18 to provide support primarily to homelessness service providers through matched Commonwealth and State and Territory (State) funding, to enable the continuation of National Partnership Agreement on Homelessness (NPAH) funded service delivery, while the Commonwealth and States discuss longer-term arrangements and reforms to housing assistance and homelessness services.
4. This Agreement will contribute to reducing homelessness levels across Australia, noting that a reduction in homelessness requires:
 - (a) targeting priority groups – people experiencing domestic and family violence, especially women and children; children; and youth;
 - (b) targeting key groups, including people experiencing homelessness more than once; Indigenous people; people exiting social housing and institutional care, such as health and mental health services, juvenile justice or adult prisons; and rough sleepers; and
 - (c) recognising the relationship between overcrowding, housing and homelessness.

5. States retain flexibility around the mix of services to maximise efficiency and effectiveness. This Agreement contributes to the objective of the National Affordable Housing Agreement that all Australians have access to affordable, safe and sustainable housing that contributes to social and economic participation. The National Affordable Housing Specific Purpose Payment (NAHA SPP) also supports housing and homelessness services.
6. This Agreement is aligned with the Closing the Gap in Indigenous Disadvantage agenda which seeks to improve life outcomes for Aboriginals and Torres Strait Islander Australians noting Indigenous people in urban and regional Australia are over-represented amongst people who are homeless, or at risk of homelessness.
7. This Agreement is aligned with the key objectives of the National Disability Strategy 2010–2020 which seeks to improve the lives of people with disability, promote participation, and create a more inclusive society. The Parties are committed to supporting the vision of the National Disability Strategy, as agreed by the Council of Australian Governments, for ‘an inclusive Australian society that enables people with disability to fulfil their potential as equal citizens’, and to the aims of the Strategy, which include driving ‘improved performance of mainstream services in delivering outcomes for people with disability’.
8. This Agreement is aligned with the National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children 2010-2022 (National Plan) which seeks to bring together the efforts of all Australian governments to make a real and sustained reduction in the levels of violence against women. The Parties are committed to supporting the vision of the National Plan, that Australian women and their children live free from violence in safe communities. In supporting this vision the Parties acknowledge the importance of ensuring frontline services in all jurisdictions continue to meet the needs of vulnerable women and children, as noted by the Council of Australian Governments in April 2015.

Reporting Arrangements

9. The States will report against the agreed performance milestones during the operation of the Agreement, as set out in Part 4 – Performance Monitoring and Reporting.

Financial Arrangements

10. The Commonwealth will provide an estimated total financial contribution to the States of \$117.2 million (GST exclusive) in respect of this Agreement, as set out in Part 5 – Financial Arrangements.

PART 1 – FORMALITIES

Parties to this Agreement

11. This Agreement is between the Commonwealth of Australia (the Commonwealth) and the States and Territories (the States).

Term of the Agreement

12. This Agreement will commence on 1 July 2017, or when the Commonwealth and one other Party have signed the Agreement, whichever is later. It will expire on 30 June 2018

or on completion of the project, including final performance reporting¹ and processing of final payments against milestones. The Agreement may be terminated earlier or extended as agreed in writing by the Parties.

PART 2 – OBJECTIVE, OUTCOMES AND OUTPUTS

Objective

13. The Agreement aims to reduce homelessness through sustained effort and partnerships with business, the not for profit sector and the community.

Outcomes

14. This Agreement will contribute to the following outcomes:
 - (a) the continuation of frontline homelessness service delivery, which contributes to the following four outcomes:
 - i. fewer people will become homeless;
 - ii. fewer people will become homeless more than once;
 - iii. people at risk of experiencing homelessness will maintain or improve connections with their families and communities, and maintain or improve their education, training or employment participation; and
 - iv. people at risk of or experiencing homelessness will be supported by quality services, with improved access to stable accommodation.
 - (b) the continuation of reform of service delivery in order to ensure the response for those at risk of or experiencing homelessness is integrated, holistic and in line with best practice.

Outputs

15. The objectives and outcomes of this Agreement will be achieved by the effort applied to the following outputs, as outlined in Project Plans:

Priority outputs

- (a) support services for women and children experiencing domestic and family violence, including to stay in their present housing where it is safe to do so;
- (b) support services to young people aged 12 to 24 years who are homeless or at risk of homelessness to re-engage with their family where it is safe to do so, maintain stable accommodation and engagement with education and/or employment;
- (c) support services for children who are homeless or at risk of homelessness including but not limited to maintaining contact with the education system;

Additional outputs

- (d) support services and accommodation to assist older people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness;

¹ Final performance reporting is due on 1 September 2018 in accordance with Clause 31 of this Agreement.

- (e) support services to assist homeless people with substance abuse issues to secure or maintain stable accommodation;
- (f) support services to assist homeless people with mental health issues to secure or maintain stable accommodation;
- (g) support services for homeless people, including families with children, to stabilise their situation and to achieve sustainable housing;
- (h) outreach programs to connect rough sleepers to long-term housing and health services;
- (i) support services for people exiting institutional care, including those who have had recent contact with the juvenile or adult justice systems, who are homeless or at risk of homelessness;
- (j) legal services to people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness as a result of legal issues including family violence, tenancy or debt;
- (k) support for private and public tenants to help sustain their tenancies, including through tenancy support, advocacy, case management, financial counselling and referral services;
- (l) improvements in service coordination and provision; and
- (m) workforce development strategies and career progression opportunities for workers in homelessness services

PART 3 – ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF EACH PARTY

16. To realise the objectives and commitments in this Agreement, each Party has specific roles and responsibilities, as outlined below.

Role of the Commonwealth

17. The Department of Social Services (DSS) has policy responsibility for this Agreement, while the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) will assist with the management of associated data. The Commonwealth agrees to be accountable for the following roles and responsibilities:
- (a) providing a financial contribution to the States to support the implementation of this Agreement;
 - (b) coordinating the development of Project Plans, including any exemption arrangements to participate in the Specialist Homelessness Services Collection (SHSC) as per clause 30 of this Agreement, in partnership with the States;
 - (c) monitoring and assessing performance in the delivery of services and projects under this Agreement to ensure that outputs are delivered and outcomes are achieved within the agreed timeframe; and
 - (d) monitoring homelessness service delivery expenditure and participation in the SHSC through confirming quarterly that all in-scope initiatives and services are participating in the SHSC, or have been provided with an exemption as negotiated.

Role of the States and Territories

18. The States agree to be accountable for the following roles and responsibilities:
 - (a) providing a matching financial contribution to support the implementation of this Agreement;
 - (b) delivering on outcomes and outputs assigned to the States for implementation;
 - (c) complying with relevant standards and guidelines and statutory requirements in delivering outcomes and outputs under this Agreement;
 - (d) developing Project Plans to demonstrate how priority and additional outputs will be delivered on, in accordance with the template at Schedule A to this Agreement, and in consultation with the Commonwealth;
 - (e) ensuring funded services and initiatives that are in-scope for the SHSC participate in the SHSC, or have an exemption from participation agreed by the Commonwealth;
 - (f) monitoring and assessing progress against Project Plans under this Agreement;
 - (g) reporting on the delivery of outcomes and outputs as set out in Part 4 – Performance Monitoring and Reporting; and
 - (h) conducting any evaluations and reviews of services and outputs delivered under this Agreement.

Shared roles and responsibilities

19. The Commonwealth and the States share the following roles and responsibilities:
 - (a) participating in consultations as appropriate regarding the implementation of this Agreement; and
 - (b) negotiating new or revised Schedules, including Project Plans and exemptions for services to participate in the SHSC if necessary, to this Agreement.
20. The Parties will meet the requirements of *Schedule E, Clause 26 of the IGA FFR*, by ensuring that prior agreement is reached on the nature and content of any events, announcements, promotional material or publicity relating to activities under a Project Plan, and that the roles of both Parties will be acknowledged and recognised appropriately.

Project Plans

21. The Commonwealth and the States will agree to Project Plans that will set out each jurisdiction's strategy for delivering on priority outputs and additional outputs for the term of this Agreement, including financial information where applicable. These Project Plans may be an update to 2015-17 Project Plans.
22. The Project Plans will be agreed by the Commonwealth and State Ministers with portfolio responsibility for homelessness after agreement by departmental officials.
23. Variations to Project Plans that impact on a State's ability to meet the outcomes and objectives of this Agreement or directly affect milestones and their achievement are subject to written agreement between the Ministers. Other variations or updates to

Project Plans are subject to the agreement of senior Commonwealth and State officials in accordance with clause 50 of this Agreement.

24. States will provide their Project Plan to the Commonwealth by 1 July 2017 or on signing the Agreement, whichever is later. This will include:
 - (a) a description of relevant state and territory context and reform directions;
 - (b) any new or current innovative approaches to be implemented in 2017-18 that will prioritise domestic and family violence, and youth homelessness;
 - (c) the expected level of total matched funding in 2017-18;
 - (d) the expected level of funding delivered to domestic and family violence, and youth homelessness, in accordance with clauses 15 (a), 15 (b) and 15 (c);
 - (e) a list of initiatives and description of how initiatives contribute towards the outputs listed in clause 15 of this Agreement;
 - (f) identification of initiatives addressing the priority outputs listed at clauses 15 (a), 15 (b) and 15 (c) of this Agreement;
 - (g) a list of the service providers and the services (grouped by initiative) that will be funded under the Agreement and a breakdown of how much funding each service will receive, with the amount of funding each service is receiving to be kept in-confidence by the Commonwealth;
 - (h) any expected reports, evaluations and reviews that are planned for 2017-18, which will contribute to the final update to the Commonwealth; and
 - (i) description of exemptions to participate in the SHSC based on existing non-participation in the SHSC and any exemptions negotiated with the Commonwealth, as detailed under clause 30 of this Agreement.
25. The Commonwealth and States will ensure timely agreement of Project Plans within 21 days of their provision to the Commonwealth. Commonwealth funding for each State will be finalised subject to the agreement of their Project Plans.
26. The States will provide the Commonwealth with the tables in the Project Plan in both PDF and in a text format.

PART 4 – PERFORMANCE MONITORING AND REPORTING

Performance indicators

27. Achievement of the objectives and outcomes in this Agreement will be informed with reference to the following performance indicator:
 - (a) At least 25 per cent of total matched funding is allocated to the priority outputs in each State, noting that States retain flexibility around the mix of services to maximise efficiency and effectiveness. The Commonwealth acknowledges that some States choose to overmatch the Commonwealth contribution. State contributions in excess of the Commonwealth contribution are not subject to the requirements of this clause.

Performance milestones

28. The States agree to meet project milestones in accordance with the table below:

Due Date	Milestone	Responsibility
1 July 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Project Plan is submitted to the Commonwealth, as per clause 24, which include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic overview of the implementation strategy, containing an overview of services, current reform directions, and any innovative approaches to addressing homelessness. • Expected funding to the priority outputs at 15 (a), 15 (b) and 15 (c). Level of total matched funding expected to be spent during 2017-18. • List of service providers and associated funding for 2017-18. • Description of how each initiative and services contribute towards the outputs listed in clause 15. • Description of exemptions to participate in the SHSC provided based on existing non-participation in the SHSC and any other exemptions negotiated with the Commonwealth. • Identification of any expected reports, reviews or evaluations that would contribute to the final update to the Commonwealth. 	States
15 th of each month (if required)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updates on changes to service providers and rationale for change under the NPAH. 	States

Reporting arrangements

29. The States agree to provide reports as detailed in clause 28, Performance Milestones.

30. Client outcomes will be reported using data from the SHSC held by the AIHW, with DSS responsible for confirming participation in the SHSC. All funded initiatives and services that are in-scope for the SHSC must participate in the SHSC unless an exemption is provided by the Commonwealth. Exemptions will be negotiated between the Commonwealth and States in legitimate circumstances where data would not be required. If an exemption was granted under the 2015-17 NPAH, and the same circumstances exist for a service funded under this Agreement, this should be listed in the State's Project Plan and will be continued.

- (a) If through the existing reporting provided by AIHW under the SHSC, it is found a service funded under the Agreement is not participating in the SHSC and has not been granted an exemption, the States, together with the Commonwealth, will work towards rectifying any issues preventing this service from participating in the SHSC. If issues are not resolved following an opportunity for review, the

Commonwealth funding contribution to the State for this service may be suspended.

- (b) States will allow the AIHW to provide the Department of Social Services (DSS) information to monitor agency participation in the SHSC and confidential client level data, including a unique identifier for agencies funded under the Agreement, to inform reporting on client outcomes in relation to NPAH funding. The data provided by the AIHW will not be able to ascertain the identity of SHS clients and agencies, and will satisfy all privacy and confidentiality requirements.
 - (c) The Commonwealth will monitor agency reporting in the SHSC. States agree to complete information through the SHSC regarding:
 - i. non-participation indicator and reason (if applicable); and
 - ii. NPAH funding indicator.
 - (d) The AIHW will continue to allow three months for agencies to submit their data and will notify DSS of agencies which are required to participate but have not submitted data into the SHSC after the reporting due date.
31. States will provide a final update to the Commonwealth by 1 September 2018:
- (a) Based on the evaluations and reviews of services and outputs delivered under the Agreement, and an assessment of progress against Project Plans; and
 - (b) Including a statement of assurance that the State has matched the Commonwealth contribution in 2017-18 and that the SACS funding was delivered in accordance with clause 41.
32. Any evaluations or reviews of services that States expect to complete in the normal course of monitoring services under the NPAH and are expected to contribute to the final update, should be identified in the Project Plan. Where possible, timeframes should also be noted. In particular, the final update should include how these evaluations or reviews demonstrate performance or achievements against the objective, outcomes and outputs of the Agreement.

PART 5 – FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS

Financial contributions

33. The Commonwealth will provide a maximum financial contribution to the States of up to \$117.2 million in respect of this Agreement.
34. States will match the Commonwealth contribution only with funding for service delivery and this funding will contribute to the outputs of this Agreement. State proposals for matched funding will be assessed by the Commonwealth and included in Project Plans.
35. States are required to demonstrate how matched funding is allocated. In accordance with clause 27(a) of this Agreement, this includes demonstrating that at least 25 per cent of the total matched funding is allocated to the priority outputs at clauses 15 (a), 15 (b) and 15 (c), in accordance with clause 24 (d) and their Project Plans. State contributions in excess of the Commonwealth contribution are not subject to the requirements of clause 27(a).

36. If States choose not to match the full Commonwealth funding commitment under this Agreement, the Commonwealth may reduce its funding to match the States' contribution. Funding levels will also be dependent on services that are in-scope for the SHSC participating in the SHSC or receiving an exemption. Where a service does not participate and an exemption has not been provided, the Commonwealth funding to the State for that service will be suspended if the issue has not been rectified as detailed under clause 30 of this Agreement.
37. The Commonwealth is committed to ensuring there is transparency and accountability in how States match the Commonwealth contribution, including maintenance of overall homelessness service delivery expenditure across the portfolio. Any reduction in overall homelessness service delivery expenditure will be identified through the relevant table(s) in the homelessness chapter from the January 2016, 2017 and 2018 Report on Government Services (RoGS) reports and may inform any future homelessness arrangements.
38. Commonwealth contributions for service delivery will be paid monthly, in advance, providing that milestones set out under clause 28 of this Agreement are met. Payments will begin from the commencement of this Agreement, for each jurisdiction, providing that the Project Plans are agreed.
39. Any conditions and agreements negotiated in this Agreement, such as the arrangements of matched funding, payment structure and value of payments, will not set a precedent for any future funding arrangements.
40. Should the States not meet their matched funding requirements by meeting the required expenditure against the priority and additional outputs listed in clause 15 of this Agreement, the Commonwealth may withhold payments until all requirements are met, including the provision of evidence as indicated in service lists to be provided under clause 24.
41. States will ensure that supplementation funding of \$2.2 million for the Pay Equity Orders is distributed to Eligible Service Providers in 2017-18 through a clear and fair process that is consistent with the principles of procedural fairness. States will be responsible for ensuring supplementation is only provided to Eligible Service Providers. The amount of supplementation funding each State is required to distribute is set out in Table 1.
42. The Commonwealth's and the States' estimated financial contribution to the operation of this Agreement, including through National Partnership payments to the States paid in accordance with *Schedule D — Payment Arrangements of the IGA FFR*, are shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Estimated financial contributions 2017-18 (\$m) ^(a)

	NSW	VIC	QLD	WA	SA	TAS	ACT	NT	TOTAL
Commonwealth contribution: Social and Community Services Supplementation (SACS)	0.28	0.42	0.71	0.45	0.18	0.06	0.03	0.10	2.22
Total Commonwealth Contribution ^(b)	30.30	23.21	29.42	15.42	9.05	2.86	1.55	5.42	117.22
State financial contribution	30.30	23.21	29.42	15.42	9.05	2.86	1.55	5.42	117.22
Estimated Total Value of Agreement	60.60	46.42	58.84	30.84	18.10	5.72	3.10	10.84	234.44

(a) Figures in this table may be subject to rounding and where payments are made under this Agreement, they will be in accordance with approved estimates.

(b) Total Commonwealth contribution includes SACS.

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PART 6 – GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS

Enforceability of the Agreement

43. The Parties do not intend any of the provisions of this Agreement to be legally enforceable. However, that does not lessen the Parties' commitment to this Agreement.

Review of the Agreement

44. In accordance with clauses 28, 31 and 37 of this Agreement, any future homelessness arrangements may be informed by updates provided to the Commonwealth and by RoGS reports. Longer-term funding arrangements and the respective roles of the Commonwealth, state and territory governments will be considered in the context of broader discussions on housing and homelessness reforms.

Variation of the Agreement

45. The Agreement may be amended at any time by agreement in writing by all the Parties.
46. A Party to the Agreement may terminate their participation in the Agreement at any time by notifying all the other Parties in writing.

Delegations

47. The relevant Commonwealth Minister with portfolio responsibility for homelessness is authorised to agree and amend Schedules, including Project Plans, to this Agreement and to certify that milestones specified under this Agreement have been achieved so that payments can be made.
48. Respective State Ministers with portfolio responsibility for homelessness and/or housing are authorised to agree and amend Schedules, including Project Plans, to this Agreement.
49. The Commonwealth Minister may delegate the assessment of the authorisation of related project payments to senior Commonwealth officials, having regard to the financial and policy risks associated with those payments.
50. The Commonwealth and State Ministers with portfolio responsibility for homelessness and/or housing may delegate to senior Commonwealth and State officials the assessment and authorisation of administrative amendments to the Schedules, including Project Plans, where these changes will not impact on a State's ability to meet the outcomes and objectives of this Agreement.

Dispute resolution

51. Any Party may give notice to other Parties of a dispute under this Agreement.
52. Officials of relevant Parties will attempt to resolve any dispute in the first instance.
53. If a dispute cannot be resolved by officials, it may be escalated to the relevant Ministers.

The Parties have confirmed their commitment to this agreement as follows:

Signed for and on behalf of the Commonwealth
of Australia by

The Honourable Malcolm Turnbull MP
Prime Minister of the Commonwealth of Australia

[Day] [Month] [Year]

Signed for and on behalf of the
State of New South Wales by

The Honourable Mike Baird MP
Premier of the State of New South Wales

[Day] [Month] [Year]

Signed for and on behalf of the
State of Victoria by

The Honourable Daniel Andrews MP
Premier of the State of Victoria

[Day] [Month] [Year]

Signed for and on behalf of the
State of Queensland by

The Honourable Anastacia Palaszczuk MP
Premier of the State of Queensland

[Day] [Month] [Year]

Signed for and on behalf of the
State of Western Australia by

The Honourable Colin Barnett MLA
Premier of the State of Western Australia

[Day] [Month] [Year]

Signed for and on behalf of the
State of South Australia by

The Honourable Jay Weatherill MP
Premier of the State of South Australia

[Day] [Month] [Year]

Signed for and on behalf of the
State of Tasmania by

The Honourable Will Hodgman MP
Premier of the State of Tasmania

[Day] [Month] [Year]

Signed for and on behalf of the Australian
Capital Territory by

Andrew Barr MLA
Chief Minister of the Australian Capital Territory

[Day] [Month] [Year]

Signed for and on behalf of the Northern
Territory by

The Honourable Michael Gunner MLA
Chief Minister of the Northern Territory of Australia

[Day] [Month] [Year]

Northern Territory Project Plan

NATIONAL PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT ON HOMELESSNESS: SCHEDULE A

PRELIMINARIES

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

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 Northern Territory, represented by [the Minister for XXX], whichever is the later, and will cease on completion or termination of the Agreement.

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 Northern Territory's capacity to achieve the outcomes of the Agreement.

This Project Plan will cover the one-year period of 2017-18.

This Project Plan may be varied in accordance with clauses 23,47,49 and 50 of the Agreement.

PART ONE: STRATEGIC OVERVIEW OF IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

Table 1: Strategic overview of implementation

<p>1. What is the relevant context for the Northern Territory, including any reform directions being taken to improve homelessness outcomes?</p>
<p><i>[Note this section should provide a brief statement on the particular state or territory's unique circumstances as context for the strategy outlined in this table, and reform directions being pursued to deliver on the National Partnership's outcomes and objectives. States should consider:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>a. existing projects or reforms that complement the Project Plan, including jurisdiction-level initiatives that have influenced the chosen direction;</i> <i>b. demographic or geographic circumstances;</i> <i>c. historical context; or</i> <i>d. any other information that the drafting state or territory agree is relevant and in the interest of aiding public understanding.]</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On Census night in 2011, there were 731 people per every 10 000 counted as homeless in the Northern Territory. This positioned the Territory as the jurisdiction with the smallest population and the highest rate of homelessness in Australia. • The Northern Territory comprises of vast distances between towns and remote and regional communities. The spaces between towns and remote and regional communities are made up of stretches of natural bushland and cattle station country, which sometimes becomes inaccessible during the Northern Territory monsoonal season. Government and non-government organisations that respond to homelessness continue to strive to overcome unique challenges in building sustainable models of service within finite funding sources, high costs of establishing and maintaining service delivery, and ongoing difficulties in recruiting and retaining skilled staff, especially in regional and remote areas with limited facilities and often high accommodation costs. • Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are overrepresented in the Northern Territory homelessness population. In the 2011 Census, this cohort made up approximately 90% of all homeless people counted, but only 27% of the entire Northern Territory population. • The complexities for providing services that achieve meaningful outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are compounded by frequent mobility between towns and communities, cultural influences and the wide variety of conditions that can be characteristic to all people who have experienced homelessness. This includes health and mental health conditions, substance misuse issues, people with disabilities and people experiencing domestic and family violence. • In 2015-16, 8,132 clients sought a service from a specialist homelessness service in the Northern Territory, of this: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 30% were homeless on presentation to a specialist homelessness services agency; ○ 11,761 support periods were provided; with an average of 1.4 per client; ○ Almost 3 in 5 clients (59%) received some form of accommodation; half received fewer

than 10 nights of accommodation;

- The top three reasons for clients seeking assistance were: domestic and family violence; housing crisis; and financial difficulties; and
- 69% of clients ended support in private or social housing.
- In 2015-16, 3,533 clients who sought assistance from a specialist homelessness service (43% of all clients) were assisted for a domestic and family violence reason, and of this:
 - 2825 clients identified as Aboriginal and of these , 2149 (76%) were female; and
 - 1083 clients were 0-9 year olds and 760 were 10 to 24 years old.
- A number of initiatives under the National Partnership Agreement on Homelessness respond to people experiencing domestic and family violence. At a broader level, the Northern Territory is facilitating action to build a Territory that is free from domestic and family violence, and where women and children are safe through the Safety is Everyone's Right Strategy. This vision is being implemented through five key areas aimed to increase the safety of victims and their children, reduce rates of intergenerational trauma caused by exposure to domestic and family violence, increase accountability of perpetrators and establish integrated service delivery systems that are sustainable and adaptable. The Strategy is directly aligned with the 'National Plan to Reduce Violence Against Women and their Children 2010-2022'.
- The ABS 2011 Census showed approximately 40% of all homeless people counted on census night were 18 years old and under. A number of initiatives under the National Partnership Agreement on Homelessness are targeted towards responding to young people who are experiencing homelessness. Complementing these initiatives is the 'Northern Territory's Youth Participation Framework 2014-2017'. This whole of government framework for young Territorians aged 12 to 24 years is an overarching framework, containing strategic goals, principles and a shared vision for young Territorians.
- In the Northern Territory, both the government and homelessness services sector have made steps to improve policy and service delivery. During 2015/16 the Department of Housing engaged a consultant to undertake extensive consultation across the Territory to hear from a range of stakeholders – including the homelessness services sector – about how housing and homelessness issues in the NT could be addressed. The outcome of this consultation was the development of the Northern Territory Strategy for Housing, HousingActionNT, which included a number of specific homelessness related actions such as the establishment of a Homelessness Innovation Fund and scoping of solutions to reduce the impact of overcrowding and rough sleeping for visitors to Darwin and Katherine.
- Additionally, a needs assessment of the housing and homelessness sector in the Northern Territory was undertaken in 2016-17, which sought to identify service gaps and priority needs for Territorians experiencing or at risk of homelessness. Through this work the homelessness services sector provided a significant amount of input and feedback, which informed a range of proposed system reforms. These reforms include trialling a range of evidence-based approaches to housing and support for people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, and redesigning the service system with a strengthened focus on a regional commissioning model.
- The Department of Housing and Community Development is leading the development of an interagency NT Homelessness Strategy and Five Year Action Plan 2018-2022 (the Strategy). The Strategy will aim to improve pathways out of homelessness and strengthen assistance to people at risk of homelessness across government and non-government services.
- The proposed national priorities for homelessness will provide the overarching framework to which the Northern Territory Homelessness Strategy will be aligned.

- The NT Homelessness Strategy will also contribute to the achievement of outcomes across the wider human services system, and be aligned to a range of NT wide agendas, policies, strategies and commitments, including (but not limited to):
 - The NT Government's commitment to deliver a new \$1.1 billion remote housing program to tackle the housing deficit in remote Aboriginal communities
 - The development of a strategy to build the NT community housing sector
 - The implementation of the Homelessness Innovation Fund
 - The NT Government's Child Protection and Youth Justice Reform Agenda (incorporating the findings of the Royal Commission into the Protection and Detention of Children in the NT)
 - The NT Domestic and Family Violence Reduction Strategy
 - The development of a NT wide Early Childhood Development Strategy
 - The NT Youth Participation Framework 2014-17
 - The commitment to develop a NT Child and Adolescent Health Plan
 - The Department of Health's Housing and Accommodation Support Initiative trial

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

[Note the purpose of this question is to provide a description of the broad services or programmes to be undertaken in 2017-18. Further detail around specific service providers should be identified in table 2.]

- Under the Transitional National Partnership Agreement for Homelessness the Northern Territory will continue to support a mix of accommodation and case management services for people who are at risk of, or who are experiencing homelessness.
- Young people who are at risk of homelessness, or who are homeless, will have access to a range of accommodation and support services across the Northern Territory. This includes accommodation, counselling and case management support services in Katherine; youth outreach and intensive support and case management in Tennant Creek; and accommodation and support services to address personal issues, establish support networks, and increase engagement in education and employment and build capacity for independent living in Darwin and in Alice Springs.
- Women and children who are experiencing domestic and family violence will have access to accommodation and support to assist their transition into secure tenancies in Darwin; and the women's shelter will continue to provide a frontline crisis response for women and children experiencing domestic and family violence in Alice Springs.
- Individuals exiting correctional services will have access to support services to reduce the likelihood of re-offending and exiting directly into homelessness, in Alice Springs and Darwin.
- Individuals and Families who are at risk of maintaining their tenancies in public or in private accommodation will have access to case management and support services in Darwin, Katherine, Alice Springs and Tennant Creek.
- Individuals and Families who are at risk of homelessness, or who are homeless, will have access to short term and transitional accommodation, as well as support services in Darwin, Katherine and Alice Springs.
- Individuals who are homeless, or sleeping rough, will have access to services that support clients to transition out of homelessness into self-supported accommodation in Darwin.

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

[Note the purpose of this question is to provide a brief overview of how a state or territory will structure service delivery to focus on the priority outputs listed at clauses 15 (a), 15 (b) and 15 (c) of the Agreement, and to identify any innovative approaches to addressing the priority outputs.]

- The Northern Territory will focus on the priority outputs of the Transitional National Partnership Agreement on Homelessness 2017-18 through the following initiatives:
 - Accommodation and support services will be provided to women and children escaping domestic and family violence in Darwin and Alice Springs, responding to priority output 15 (a).
 - Accommodation and support services for young people will be provided in Darwin, Katherine, Alice Springs and Tennant Creek, responding to priority output 15 (b).
 - The Northern Territory recognises that although there are specific initiatives funded to respond to young people, or domestic and family violence, that most services are likely to respond to clients in the priority output categories of 15 (a), 15 (b), and 15 (c).
 - The Northern Territory will respond to the priority output areas of 15 (a), 15 (b), and 15 (c) within Northern Territory Government policy frameworks and programs.
 - The Northern Territory will build strong partnerships with the non-government sector underpinned by the Northern Territory Government and Non-Government Community Services Sector Statement of Principles. The Northern Territory will seek innovative ways to support the non-government sector in responding to people experiencing homelessness, including young people and people who are experiencing domestic and family violence.

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

[Note the purpose of this question is to identify geographical areas of significant need within a state or territory. States should provide information on:

- i. which area(s) have been identified;*
- ii. classification of the area by postcode, city, LGA, region etc.;*
- iii. rationale or justification for an area being identified; and*
- iv. what services are being, or will be provided to these areas under the Agreement.]*

- Considering the Northern Territory context, importance is placed on the homelessness experiences of individuals in all major geographical areas, including Darwin, Katherine, Tennant Creek and Alice Springs.
- The Northern Territory has a rate of homelessness that is almost 15 times the national average. On Census night in 2011, there were 730.7 homeless per 10 000 persons. This is a significantly higher figure in comparison to the Australian average of 49 per 10 000 persons.
- The Northern Territory is committed to continuing to support innovative initiatives and the

successful efforts of non-government agencies to provide ongoing responses to the changing and complex environment, as well as the unique needs of people who experience homelessness throughout all geographical areas of the Territory.

- The Transitional National Partnership Agreement on Homelessness funding will provide accommodation and case management or supports to women and children escaping domestic and family violence in Darwin, as well as a crisis shelter for women and their children in Alice Springs 15 (a). Initiatives under the Transitional National Partnership on Homelessness will also provide accommodation and case management services for young people 15 (b) in Darwin, Katherine and Alice Springs and Tennant Creek.
- The Northern Territory recognises that although there are specific initiatives funded to respond to young people, or domestic and family violence, that the majority of Northern Territory specialist homelessness services are likely to respond to clients in the priority output categories of 15 (a) ,15 (b), and 15 (c) in Darwin, Katherine, Tennant Creek and Alice Springs.

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

- 2017-18: \$6,940,072

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

- 2017-18: \$10.84 million.

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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	Alice Springs Women's Shelter - Crisis Accommodation	Women's Shelter domestic and family violence crisis accommodation; this initiative provides access to culturally appropriate support, assistance, advocacy and referral for women and children in Alice Springs who are affected by and/or at risk of domestic/family violence.	15a	Alice Springs Women's Shelter	Yes	No	Not applicable	Not applicable
2	Anglicare NT - Young People Leaving Care Program - Moving On	Advocacy, support and brokerage for young people (16-24) who are leaving; or have left care. The priority is to maximize a successful transition to independence and connection to the community.	15i, 15b	Anglicare N.T. LTD.	Yes	No	Not applicable	Not applicable

3	Mission Australia - Assistance for people leaving correctional services	Mission Australia's support service for adult male and female prisoners who are due for release within three months and want to re-integrate back into the Darwin and Alice Springs communities. After an individual has been released the service continues to provide case management while re-establishing themselves in the community with a focus on housing, life skills, training, employment, health, family relationships, drug and alcohol misuse and social inclusion. This can reduce the likelihood of re-offending.	15i	Mission Australia	Yes	No	Not applicable	Not applicable
4	Anglicare NT - accommodation and support services in Darwin	Anglicare NT's accommodation and case management support for young people (singles, couples and those with children) who are homeless or at risk of homelessness to address personal issues, establish family and / or peer support networks, build capacity for independent living, develop problem solving skills and increase their level of engagement in education, training, employment and community life.	15b	Anglicare N.T. Ltd.	Yes	No	No	Not applicable
5	Anglicare NT - accommodation and support services in Katherine	<p>Anglicare NT's accommodation and case management for young people (singles, couples and those with children) who are at risk of homelessness. Through case management, outreach support, advocacy and community education, clients work with staff to address personal issues, establish family and / or peer support in Katherine.</p> <p>Anglicare NT's accommodation and case management is also provided for families and individuals to build living skills and develop pathways for clients into stable housing.</p>	15b, 15g	Anglicare N.T. LTD.	Yes	No	No	Not applicable

6	Darwin Aboriginal and Islander Women's Shelter – accommodation and support Service - Darwin	DAIWS medium to long term accommodation and support services is provided to women and children in a culturally sensitive environment with the aim of clients successfully transitioning into independent tenancies. Staff are experienced in providing culturally appropriate and safe accommodation services for Aboriginal women and children who have been affected by domestic and / or family violence.	15a	Darwin Aboriginal & Islander Women's Shelter (DAIWS)	Yes	No	Not applicable	Not applicable
7	Mission Australia- accommodation and support services – Darwin	<p>Mission Australia's intensive case management, referrals and support to young people who are experiencing, or who are at risk of experiencing homelessness. Case managers work closely with the young people to empower them to effectively solve their problems and divert them away from anti-social behaviours that impact on their ability to function and thrive in society.</p> <p>Mission Australia's accommodation and case management for men who are at risk of homelessness to create an environment where clients can develop skills for independence and transition to independent tenancies.</p>	15b, 15g	Mission Australia	Yes	No	Not applicable	Not applicable

8	The Salvation Army - accommodation and support services - Darwin	<p>The Salvation Army's accommodation and support to men and women who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. The service provides case management within a strengths based, person centred approach and assists clients in attaining long term, sustainable housing.</p> <p>The Salvation Army's outreach and support services for individuals who are homeless, or at risk of homelessness, including rough sleeping and who are not accessing traditional housing services. The service helps participants transition from either rough sleeping or temporary living situations into self-supported living through case management and wrap around support.</p>	15g, 15h	The Trustee for The Salvation Army (NT) Property Trust	Yes	No	Not applicable	Not applicable
9	YWCA of Darwin – accommodation and support services – Darwin	YWCA's accommodation and support services for young people and older single women. The Program provides case management to respond to homelessness and works with young people and older single women to move into or retain independent accommodation. Staff are trained and supported to undertake effective intake assessments, and will work within a strengths-based, trauma informed case management approach.	15b, 15g	YWCA of Darwin	Yes	No	Not applicable	Not applicable

10	CatholicCare NT - support services – Tennant Creek	<p>CatholicCare NT’s youth outreach services to assist young people in Tennant Creek who are at risk of homelessness to stabilise their personal circumstances by engaging them in intensive support and case management. The service supports vulnerable young people to re-engage with their families and community and address issues impacting upon their social and emotional wellbeing.</p> <p>CatholicCare NT’s housing support services, which aim to reduce homelessness by providing high intensity case management to intervene early to support clients to regain control of their circumstances including; housing, financial, and social and community issues that are placing them at risk of homelessness. Through case management clients are supported to address multifaceted challenges they face in maintaining their tenancy.</p>	15b, 15k	CatholicCare NT	Yes	No	Not applicable	Not applicable
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11	Alice Springs Youth Accommodation and Support Services - accommodation and support services- Alice Springs	Alice Springs Youth Accommodation and Supports Services (ASYASS) provides case management and support services to young people and young families who are homeless, or are at risk of homelessness. Its services are delivered through programs offered by ASYASS, which include: <u>The Youth Resource Centre</u> : which provides a central place for delivery of case management and structured activities or programs; <u>Ampe Akweke</u> : which provides case management and support for young women who are pregnant or with a baby or a toddler; <u>The Crisis Youth Refuge</u> : which provides case management and services to youth who are in crisis; <u>The Youth Housing and Advocacy Program</u> : which provides case management and support to youth who are transitioning to independent living.	15b	Alice Springs Youth Accommodation & Support Services (ASYASS)	Yes	No	Not applicable	Not applicable
12	Anglicare NT - accommodation and support services – Alice Springs	Anglicare NT's accommodation and support services provides case management support to clients residing in its transitional housing services. Case management addresses underlying complex need whilst providing tenancy skills development training to assist clients who are homeless or at risk of homelessness to sustain tenancies. Case management is strength-based, client centred and trauma informed.	15g	Anglicare N.T. Ltd.	Yes	No	No	Not applicable
13	Mental Health Association of Central Australia (MHACA)- support services – Alice Springs	MHACA support services provide client centred case management service for individuals and families, with a focus on achieving sustainable tenancies specifically tailored to those individuals living with significant mental health issues. MHACA provides case management, skill development, recovery planning and engagement with clinical services and mediation management for its clients within its Support Services program.	15f	Mental Health Association of Central Australia	Yes	No	No	Not applicable

14	Somerville Community Services – Support Services - Katherine	Somerville Community Services provides support services for counselling, family mediation, youth group work and outreach services to young people, individuals and families to improve their well-being and avert homelessness. This target group is often unemployed and in poor physical and mental health.	15b, 15g	Somerville Community Services	Yes	No	No	Not applicable
Priority outputs sub-total \$m							Total \$m	\$10,840,000

***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.**

The priority outputs sub-total for funding directed to Domestic and family Violence and Youth/Children specific initiatives is \$6,940,072 (64%) of the total homelessness funding pool of \$10,840,000. Of this amount, \$2,104,785 is directed to Domestic and Family Violence Specific Initiatives, whilst \$4,835,287 goes towards Youth and Children's Homelessness specific initiatives

*****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.**

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Expected reports, reviews or evaluations

In accordance with clause 31 and 32 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	As available, Northern Territory data from the Specialist Homelessness Service Collection will inform the final update to the Commonwealth.	September 2018
2	As available, contractual performance reporting from NT NPAH funded initiatives will inform the final update to the Commonwealth.	September 2018
3	Review of rough sleepers in Darwin and Katherine to develop options for addressing homelessness.	December 2017

Project Plan Sign off

The Parties have confirmed their commitment to this agreement as follows:

Signature

Date

[By state/territory Minister]

Signature

Date

The Hon Christian Porter MP

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