

# Northern Territory Implementation Plan

## NATIONAL PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT ON HOMELESSNESS

### PART 1: PRELIMINARIES

1. This Implementation Plan is a schedule to the National Partnership Agreement on Homelessness (NPAH) and should be read in conjunction with that Agreement. The objective of the NPAH is: *The Parties will sustain their commitment to reducing homelessness through sustained effort and partnerships with business, the not for profit sector and the community.*
2. The NPAH supports the Homelessness White Paper targets to reduce homelessness levels across Australia, recognising that a reduction in homelessness requires targeting key groups: rough sleepers; people experiencing homelessness more than once; people experiencing violence especially women and children; children and young people, including those subject to or exiting care and protection; Indigenous people; and people exiting social housing and institutional care, such as health and mental health services, juvenile justice or adult prisons. The relationship between overcrowding, housing and homelessness is also recognised.

### PART 2: TERMS OF THIS IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

3. This Implementation Plan will commence on 1 July 2013, provided it is agreed between the Commonwealth of Australia and the Northern Territory, represented by the Commonwealth and State Ministers with responsibility for homelessness.
4. As a schedule to the NPAH, the purpose of this Implementation Plan is to provide the public with an indication of how the reform or project is intended to be delivered and demonstrate the Northern Territory's capacity to achieve the outcomes of the NPAH.
5. This Implementation Plan will cease on completion or termination of the NPAH, including the acceptance of final performance reporting and processing of final payments.
6. This Implementation Plan may be varied by written agreement between the responsible Commonwealth and State Ministers under the overarching NPAH.
7. The Parties to this Implementation Plan do not intend any of the provisions to be legally enforceable. However, that does not lessen the Parties' commitment to the plan and its full implementation.

## PART 3: STRATEGY FOR THE NORTHERN TERRITORY'S IMPLEMENTATION

### Initiative information – Service Continuity

Table 1: Description of initiatives including services funded under each initiative

No	Initiative title	Short description of initiative	Service Provider/s, Program and/or Project for each Initiative	Output/s addressed (refer to outputs in NP)
1	Tenancy Support Program (TSP)	<p>The TSP provides the opportunity for clients to work with experienced service providers to help maintain their tenancies. Service providers offer case management and life skills training to people in public housing, including residents of town camps, who require assistance to manage and sustain their tenancies. Support ranges from low level to intensive depending on the needs of the client.</p> <p>During 2013-14, some service providers will work to transition clients from the previous A Place to Call Home (APTCH) program into the TSP or other appropriate housing and support arrangements.</p>	<p>Multiple:</p> <p>Anglicare NT</p> <p>Mission Australia</p> <p>CatholicCare</p>	15a, 16l

			<p>Larrakia Nation Aboriginal Corporation</p> <p>Mabunji Aboriginal Resource Association</p> <p>Tangentyere Council</p> <p>Julalikari Aboriginal Corporation</p>	
2	Case Management – Salvation Army Red Shield Hostel	This initiative provides case management to clients who cycle through homelessness at the Red Shield Hostel, and through outreach services. The initiative assists clients in developing relationships, budgeting skills, goal setting, self-esteem and dealing with complex issues that might hinder their success.	The Salvation Army	15a, 16a, 16b, 16c, 16g, 16h, 16j
3	Katherine Youth Accommodation and Support Service (KYASS)	The Katherine Youth Accommodation and Support Service (KYASS) provides crisis and short-term supported accommodation in the Katherine area and coordinates a range of services to ensure young people are linked to support such as education, training, alcohol and other drugs services, living skills	Anglicare NT	15a, 16d

		and counselling. The service also actively seeks to reunify young people with their families.		
4	South Terrace Managed Accommodation	This initiative provides short to medium term managed accommodation for Indigenous people and families who are visiting Alice Springs to seek medical treatment, or to address other essential needs. The facility is known as Akangkentye Hostel and has 18 ground level units of accommodation, an industrial kitchen and a resident's dining room.	Aboriginal Hostels Limited	15a, 16g
5	Youth Housing Options and Pathways Program (YHOPP)	The Youth Housing Options and Pathways Program (YHOPP) provides medium and long term transitional accommodation and case management services to young people aged 15 to 19 years. This service aims to assist young people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness to access stable accommodation and support to engage in employment, education or training.	Anglicare NT	15a,16d
6	Percy Court Managed and Supported Accommodation	This initiative provides 28 self-contained units, made up of seven three bedroom units, three four bedroom units and eighteen one bedroom units. The facility was constructed through the Nation Building and Jobs Plan National Partnership Agreement and the National Affordable Housing Agreement. Percy Court (known as Aherlkeme Village) provides case management, support and life skills training to people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness for a period of 12 months. The program is based on four modules that are delivered on a one-to-one basis with clients each week	Mission Australia	15a, 16g
7	Supported Accommodation	This initiative provides supported accommodation to men who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.	Mission Australia	15a, 16a, 16b, 16c,

		Delivery of services under this project incorporates provision of accommodation and strength based case management with a focus on capacity building, supporting linkages with key services and preparing clients to exit into alternative accommodation.		16g
8	Assistance for people leaving correctional services	This service works with prisoners who are due for release within three months, and want to reintegrate back into the Darwin, Katherine and Alice Springs communities. After the individual has been released, the Mission Australia Post Release Support Service continues to provide case management while participants re-establish themselves in community. This can help to reduce the likelihood of re-offending. Mission Australia Post Release Support Service assists people to develop and follow a plan to return to community life on release from prison.	Mission Australia	15a, 16a, 16b, 16c, 16g
9	Transitional Aftercare Service	This initiative provides a medium stay (up to 26 weeks) aftercare, outreach and case management service for adults aged 18 years and over that operates as a transitional service for people exiting intensive alcohol or other drug rehabilitation, other institutions and entering into independent living.	St Vincent de Paul	15a, 16a, 16b, 16c, 16g
10	Client Information and Management Services	Maintenance of the ShelterMe website to better connect people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness to service providers in the Northern Territory. This initiative is run by NT Shelter, the peak housing and homelessness body in the Northern Territory.	NT Shelter	15a, 16e

11	Darwin Aboriginal and Islander Women's Shelter Transitional Housing	This initiative provides funding for the operation of eight self-contained transitional housing units. The facility provides transitional accommodation and case management support for women and children escaping domestic and family violence who are looking to transition into public housing.	Darwin Aboriginal and Islander Women's Shelter	15a, 16f, 16g, 16l
12	Youth Crisis Residential Program	This program provides youth accommodation services to assist young Indigenous people to access secure accommodation, attend school or training, remain engaged with family and receive the necessary support to build life skills. Accommodation is provided in two houses set aside in Mulga Camp in Tennant Creek. Provision is contingent on the young people being identified as homeless or at risk of homelessness, and their agreement to engage in work, training or education.	Julalikari Aboriginal Corporation	15a, 16d
13	Domestic and Family Violence Support	Funding to increase the capacity of the Alice Springs Women's Shelter to assist women and children escaping domestic and family violence.	Alice Springs Women's Shelter	15a, 16f, 16g, 16i
14	Young people leaving care program (Moving On)	This program assists young people leaving the care system and those who have previously left care of the Office of Children and Families (OCF) to gain independence by providing linkages to employment, education, housing and other support services in accordance with legislative requirements. The support provided to young people leaving care encompasses a range of programs and services that relate to accommodation, education and training, employment, legal and health services and counselling.	Anglicare NT	15a, 16g

15	Vincent Care Bakhita Centre Accommodation and Outreach Services	Bakhita Centre provides medium to long term transitional supported accommodation, case management and outreach services program for homeless people in Darwin.	St Vincent de Paul	15a, 16g, 16l
16	Alice Springs Youth Accommodation and Support Services – Youth Refuge	This program provides short term crisis accommodation for youth, with case management support to help young people focus on their needs and aspirations in response to and during a period of crisis.	Alice Springs Youth Accommodation and Support Services Incorporated	15a,16d
17	Alice Springs Youth Accommodation and Support Services – Youth Housing and Advocacy Program	This program provides semi-supported short, medium and long term accommodation for young people who are single parents, couples or a family. Clients receive advocacy and support to access and/or maintain independent accommodation.	Alice Springs Youth Accommodation and Support Services Incorporated	15a,16d

## Reform Directions

8. During 2013-14 the Northern Territory will progress the following reform directions:
  - a) a review of the NT specialist homelessness services system, including service level review, will commence in 2013-14. The review will focus on the range of services available in the Northern Territory, the effectiveness of current service models and their contribution to client outcomes. The review will take place in consultation with service providers, stakeholders and clients; and
  - b) re-development of tenancy support programs to provide for better coordination between service providers and the Department of Housing and better outcomes for clients. The redevelopment is occurring in a staged process throughout 2013-14 in conjunction with service providers and will include development of shared service models, operational processes and protocols.

## Specialist Homelessness Services Quality System

9. The Northern Territory currently meets the requirements under Model 1 of the Homelessness National Quality Framework. This includes service providers applying a set of NT Supported Accommodation Assistance Program (SAAP) Standards as set out in service agreements, but with no regular formal assessment against these standards.
10. During the term of this Agreement the Northern Territory will continue to plan for the implementation of Model 3 of the Homelessness National Quality Framework and in accordance with Clause 31 of the NPAH will provide a statement of progress by 31 January 2014.

## Tenant Advice and Advocacy Services

11. Northern Territory funding for Tenancy Advice and Advocacy Services is provided external to the NPAH.

## Estimated costs

12. The maximum financial contribution to be provided by the Commonwealth for the project to the jurisdiction is \$5.16 million payable in accordance with Part 5 of the NPAH. All payments are exclusive of GST.
13. The Northern Territory Government matched funding is \$5.16 million.

## Risk management

14. A risk management plan is in place for service delivery initiatives. Risks have been actively identified, entered into a risk log and categorised in terms of impact and likelihood. This risk management plan does not need to be provided to the Commonwealth.

### Relevant Territory Context

15. In developing this Implementation Plan, consideration has been given to the Northern Territory context. Factors that contribute to the high rate of homelessness include:
- a) remoteness and the significant shortage of affordable housing stock, both for rental and purchase;
  - b) the limited presence and availability of established services in remote areas;
  - c) high numbers of people residing in available housing;
  - d) people escaping domestic and family violence;
  - e) long wait times for public housing in urban areas; and
  - f) the migration of Indigenous people to urban areas with these people often living rough, staying in temporary accommodation or with family or friends.
16. Under the previous NPAH, 22 initiatives were established over the life of the Agreement. The key NPAH strategy of 14 of these initiatives was to break the cycle of homelessness, with the remainder focussing on prevention and early intervention and a better connected service system. Within these initiatives, the majority of services established under the previous NPAH were either crisis, short, medium term or transitional interventions. These services expanded the capacity of the existing specialist homelessness services system, offering more options to families, young people, Indigenous people and rough sleepers in particular. In addition, the A Place to Call Home program and the Tenancy Sustainability Program increased the stock of public or social housing through the construction or refurbishment of 96 new houses, supported households to transition from homelessness into public housing and supported existing public housing tenants to sustain their tenancies.
17. There are a number of key factors that influence the capacity of the specialist homelessness service sector to deliver services, including:
- a) a small and geographically dispersed population, under-developed non-government sector and limited government resources;
  - b) service costs in the Territory are high due to reduced economies of scale, geographical remoteness and climatic limitations;
  - c) recruiting and retaining staff is an ongoing issue for non government organisations in the Territory; and
  - d) cultural factors, including traditionally high rates of cyclical Indigenous mobility and complexities associated with concepts of 'home' and 'homelessness' continue to be a factor in the Territory.

### Sign off

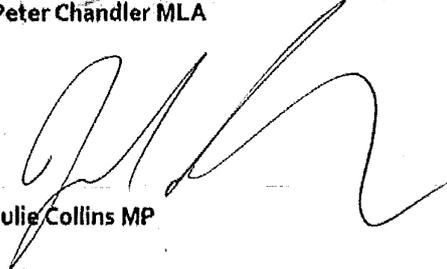
The Parties have confirmed their commitment to this agreement as follows:

  
Signature

The Hon Peter Chandler MLA

Date

19 Jul 13

  
Signature

The Hon Julie Collins MP

Date

25 7 13

