

*Note: Commercially sensitive information and service provider details have been removed from this Project Plan by agreement of the Commonwealth and the Australian Capital Territory (ACT).*

# ACT Project Plan

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 2015 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, 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 two-year period of 2015-16 to 2016-17.
5. This Project Plan may be varied in accordance with clauses 19, 45, 46 and 48 of the Agreement.

## PART ONE: STRATEGIC OVERVIEW OF IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

**Table 1: Strategic overview of implementation**

<p><b>1. What is the relevant context for the ACT, including any reform directions being taken to improve homelessness outcomes?</b></p>
<p>ACT Government expenditure on specialist homelessness services is estimated to be \$19.6 million in 2015-16 and \$19.8 million in 2016-17. NPAH funding is an important component of this expenditure, and is used to address service gaps.</p> <p>The ACT Government's Human Services Blueprint provides the framework for integrated service delivery in the ACT, so that people receive the right support, at the right time for the right duration. The Blueprint is supporting the delivery of ACT Government reform priorities, including rollout of the National Disability Insurance Scheme, red tape reduction for the community sector, new models of social investment and contracting and reforms in the Out of Home Care sector. The development of a single Human Services Gateway, including a common assessment and referral system, will increase the scope for social housing and homelessness services to work together with other specialist and mainstream services to provide person-centred support focussed on building the strength and capacity of families and individuals. Findings from an independent evaluation of reforms to the specialist homelessness service system over the period 2009 -2014 will also inform discussions with the sector about the future shape of homelessness services in the ACT. As a first stage, contracts will be aligned to 30 June 2016 to implement outcomes of the evaluation. The ACT Government will advise of any changes in the funding mix over the Agreement period, noting that the Commonwealth Government's priority objectives will continue to be addressed.</p> <p>The Commonwealth focus on domestic violence through homelessness service delivery represents a small proportion of the ACT Government's spending in this area. Most of the funding for domestic violence initiatives comes through the National Affordable Housing Agreement and the ACT Budget. Specialist domestic violence and sexual assault services receive annual funding of \$3.3 million and another \$1.7 million is provided for crisis and transitional accommodation and outreach support for women and children who are leaving domestic violence or have become homeless. In recognition of the significantly increased demand on services, the 2015-16 ACT Budget allocated an additional \$0.25 million to expand the capacity of the key domestic and sexual violence crisis services. An extra \$0.615 million was allocated for programs in ACT schools to help children learn about respectful relationships and access supports. Contributions totalling \$0.555 million from the Confiscated Assets Trust Fund support activities including the development of an ACT domestic violence data framework, women's safety grants and extra funding for the Domestic Violence Prevention Council to expand its works program. The ACT Government has committed to a long term, whole of government response to domestic violence through its appointment of a Coordinator General for Domestic and Family Violence to oversee strategic efforts, including legislative reforms, and to drive the ACT's Second Implementation Plan for the <i>ACT Prevention of Violence against Women and Children Strategy 2011-2017</i>.</p> <p>A number of initiatives implemented through NPAHs to date have exceeded expectations. The new, purpose built 40 unit Common Ground dwelling was funded through the 2013-14 NPAH Development Fund and generous private sector and community donations. This assertive intervention model provides safe, secure, supported accommodation for people who have experienced persistent homelessness and helps link them to their local community. The 20 social housing tenants and 20 people on low incomes, who will pay affordable rent, are currently taking up residence. An evaluation is planned for 2017.</p>
<p><b>2. What frontline services or programmes will the ACT deliver in 2015-16 to 2016-17 to meet the outcomes of the Agreement.</b></p>
<p>The ACT supports the priority focus on initiatives to address domestic violence and youth homelessness in NPAH 2015-17. The ACT also supports the continuing focus on services designed to address a range of factors contributing to homelessness in the Territory.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• First Point (Central Intake Service): Provides placement into homelessness and housing support services and facilitates access to other relevant services as required.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• Sustaining Tenancies Service: Provides intensive case management and early intervention targeted at those at risk of losing their housing and becoming homeless.</li> <li>• Our Place: Youth Integrated Education Accommodation program provides accommodation and support for young people to engage in education and training.</li> <li>• The Managed Accommodation Program: Provides accommodation and support for single men exiting the corrections system.</li> <li>• Heira Domestic Violence Supported Accommodation Program: Provides accommodation and support for women experiencing domestic violence.</li> <li>• Housing Accommodation Support Initiative: Provides tenancy and clinical support for tenants with moderate to severe mental illness.</li> <li>• Building Housing Partnerships - Transitional Support and Head Lease Arrangements: Facilitates, co-ordinates and delivers a range of support, assistance and living-skills programs for vulnerable tenants, including support to find training and employment.</li> </ul>
<p><b>3. How will the ACT focus on the priority outputs, including where this will draw on any new or current innovative approaches?</b></p>
<p>The ACT will address the Commonwealth's domestic and family violence priority by allocating funding to a well established and effective accommodation and outreach service for women leaving domestic violence, including women from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. 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</p>

<p>network; and obtain independent, stable accommodation.</p> <p>The Commonwealth's youth priority will be met through continued funding of Our Place, an existing NPAH funded service 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 16-21, through supported accommodation and case management, to ensure they remain engaged in education or training. Young people must be studying (eg at school, university or TAFE) or undertaking an apprenticeship to access the program.</p>	
<p><b>4. Which geographical area(s) will the ACT prioritise in 2015-16 and 2016-17 when considering allocation of funding to the priority outputs listed at clause 11(a), 11(b) and 11(c) of the Agreement, and what services are being provided to these areas?</b></p>	
<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>	
<p><b>5. Broadly, what level of NPAH funding does the ACT expect to allocate to domestic and family violence, and youth homelessness in 2015-16 and 2016-17</b></p>	
<p>2015-16: \$794,870 (26%) direct allocation to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Heira Domestic Violence Supported Accommodation Program; and</li> <li>- Our Place youth accommodation service</li> </ul> <p>Most programs are also accessed by women and children experiencing domestic violence and young people.</p>	<p>2016-17: \$794,870 (26%) direct allocation to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Heira Domestic Violence Supported Accommodation Program; and</li> <li>- Our Place youth accommodation service</li> </ul> <p>Most programs are also accessed by women and children experiencing domestic violence and young people.</p>
<p><b>6. What is the expected level of homelessness service delivery expenditure for the ACT under the NPAH in 2015-16 and 2016-17?</b></p>	
<p>2015-16: \$3.04 million in matched funding (C'wealth and ACT Govt contributions)</p>	<p>2016-17: \$3.04 million in matched funding (C'wealth and ACT Govt contributions)</p>

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 11 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	NPAH funded 2015-16	NPAH funded 2016-17	**** Service Coverage Area
1	Supportive Tenancy Service	This service provides intensive case management to 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.	11(k)	Woden Community Service in partnership with Belconnen Community Services and the Young Women's Christian Association	Yes	No	NA	NA	✓	✓	ACT
2	HeiraDomestic Violence Supported Accommodation Program	This service provides accommodation, case management and support to women escaping domestic violence. Support includes advocacy, referrals and help with safety planning.	11(a)	Toora Women Inc	Yes	No	NA	NA	✓	✓	ACT
3	Managed Accommodation Program	This service provides accommodation support for up to 15 single men exiting the ACT corrections system. Key outcomes of the service 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.	11(e) 11(f) 11(i)	EveryMan Australia	Yes	No	NA	NA	✓	✓	ACT
4	Our Place, Youth Integrated Education and Accommodation Program	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 minimum of 25 hrs per week.	11(b)	Barnardos and Anglicare	Yes	No	NA	NA	✓	✓	ACT
5	First Point (Central Intake Service)	This service was the ACT's central intake service for specialist homelessness services until 30 June 2016.	11(l)	Connections ACT	Yes	No	NA	NA	✓	X	ACT
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.	11(h).	St Vincent De Paul	Yes	No	NA	NA	✓	✓	ACT

7	Building Housing Partnerships – Transitional Support and Head Tenancies	This service aims to help break the cycle of homelessness and disadvantage in the ACT community. The service aims to achieve this by facilitating, coordinating, and delivering a range of support, assistance and living-skills programs for vulnerable tenants, including support to find training and employment.	11(g) 11(d) 11(e) 11(f)	<b>Current Head Lease-</b> Barnardos Inanna Toora Women Inc. St Vincent de Paul Communities@Work  <b>Current Transitional support-</b> Catholic Care	Yes	No	NA	NA	✓	✓	ACT
8	Housing Accommodation & Support Initiative	This service was established to increase tenancy and clinical support for tenants with a mental illness. HASI clients transitioned to the National Disability Insurance Scheme on 1 July 2016.	11 (f)	Richmond Fellowship Mental Health Foundation Inanna Inc. St Vincent de Paul	No	Yes	Yes	Up to 15 at any one time (Service users exited to NDIS 1 July 2016)	✓	X	ACT
9	OneLink (Central Access Point)	This service is the central information/access point for the ACT Specialist Homelessness Sector from 1 July 2016.	11(l)	Woden Community Service, in partnership with Belconnen Community Service	Yes	No	NA	NA	X	✓	ACT
10	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.	11(a)	Doris Women's Refuge Incorporated	Yes	No	NA	NA	X	✓	ACT
11	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.	11(a)	Beryl Women Inc	Yes	No	NA	NA	X	✓	ACT
<b>Funding 2015-16</b>											\$3,040,000
<b>Funding 2016-17</b>											\$3,040,000
<b>Total funding</b>											\$6,080,000