

**IMPLEMENTATION PLAN  
FOR THE  
NATIONAL PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT ON HOMELESSNESS  
BETWEEN THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA AND THE NORTHERN  
TERRITORY**

**JULY 2009 – JUNE 2013**

**PRELIMINARIES**

The Commonwealth and Northern Territory Governments signed the National Partnership Agreement on Homelessness (‘the Agreement’) in December 2008.

Both Governments are committed to addressing the issue of social inclusion, including responding to Indigenous disadvantage. That commitment is embodied in the objectives and outcomes of the Agreement. Reducing homelessness will require all governments to pursue improvements to a wide range of policies, programs and services.

The Agreement recognises that a reduction in homelessness requires targeting key groups: rough sleepers, people experiencing homelessness more than once, people escaping 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, institutional care such as health, mental health, juvenile justice, or adult prisons.

The objectives of the Agreement will be achieved through State and Territory Implementation Plans. This document represents the Implementation Plan for the Northern Territory. The Implementation Plan establishes the priorities and relative effort for the Territory based on the homelessness population, the current service system and the funding available under the Agreement.

The Agreement will be implemented initially in the priority urban centres of Darwin, Katherine, Tennant Creek and Alice Springs.

The Agreement was developed within the context of the broader Council of Australian Governments (COAG) Reform Agenda, which includes actions in healthcare, mental health, substance abuse, disabilities, housing, employment, education/training and overcoming disadvantage of Indigenous people. Together with other elements of the broader COAG Reform Agenda, the Agreement will improve the social inclusion of homeless Australians.

The Agreement is aligned to the National Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Housing and the Social Housing Schedule to the National Partnership Agreement on the Nation Building and Jobs Plan.

The National Partnership Agreement on Social Housing has been established to facilitate the implementation of the Social Housing Growth Fund, which aims to increase the supply of social housing through new construction, contribute to reduced homelessness and improve outcomes for homeless and Indigenous Australians. The Social Housing Schedule to the National Partnership Agreement on the Nation Building and Jobs Plan provides for a Social Housing Initiative to: increase the supply of social housing through new construction and refurbishment of existing stock, increase opportunities for people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness to gain secure long term accommodation and to stimulate the building and construction industries.

The Agreement was created subject to the provisions of the Intergovernmental Agreement on Federal Financial Relations and its schedules, and should be read in conjunction with them.

## **CORE OUTPUTS**

The Agreement will deliver the following core outputs:

- (a) Implementation of the A Place to Call Home initiative;
- (b) Street to home initiatives for chronic homeless people (rough sleepers);
- (c) Support for private and public tenants to help sustain their tenancies, including through tenancy support, advocacy, case management, financial counselling and referral services; and
- (d) Assistance for people leaving child protection services, correctional and health facilities, to access and maintain stable, affordable housing.

## **ADDITIONAL OUTPUTS**

According to the Agreement, States and Territories will also contribute to the following additional outputs. However, not all of these outputs will be delivered in the Territory.

- (a) Support services and accommodation to assist older people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness;
- (b) Services to assist homeless people with substance abuse to secure or maintain stable accommodation;
- (c) Services to assist homeless people with mental health issues to secure or maintain stable accommodation;
- (d) Support to assist young people aged 12 to 18 years who are homeless or at risk of homelessness to re-engage with their family where it is safe to do so, maintain sustainable accommodation and engagement with education and employment;
- (e) Improvements in service coordination and provision;
- (f) Support for women and children experiencing domestic and family violence to stay in their present housing where it is safe to do so;
- (g) Assistance 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) National, State, and rural (including remote) homelessness action plans to assist homeless people in areas identified as having high rates of homelessness;
- (j) Support for children who are homeless or at risk of homelessness including to maintain contact with the education system;
- (k) Legal services provided to people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness as a result of legal issues including family violence, tenancy or debt; and
- (l) Workforce development and career progression for workers in homelessness services.

## **TERM OF THE IMPLEMENTATION PLAN**

The term of this Implementation Plan will be from the date that both parties agree to the Plan until 30 June 2013. The Plan may be amended or extended beyond this date with the written agreement of both parties.

The Implementation Plan will be reviewed after six months of signing, and thereafter on an annual basis to ensure its continuing relevance to the requirements of the Agreement and to the COAG reform agenda. Performance indicators and measures will be reviewed at this time and will be updated in line with national progress in homelessness-related data development.

## GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS

The Northern Territory and the Commonwealth are committed to working together to achieve the objectives of the Agreement. The Territory and the Commonwealth will meet on a quarterly basis to discuss progress with the projects funded through the Agreement and any other issues relevant to the administration of the funding arrangements under this plan.

The Northern Territory Government's Homelessness Working Group has primary responsibility for overseeing the implementation of the NT's homelessness initiatives across Northern Territory Government agencies, and for the achievement of the outcomes and objectives outlined in the Homelessness NPA. Chaired by the –Department of Local Government and Housing, the Homelessness Working Group will monitor progress against the core outputs of the Homelessness NPA and coordinate action around the three key Homelessness NPA strategies: effective prevention and early intervention; breaking the cycle of homelessness; and a better connected service system.

The Homelessness Working Group reports directly to the Inter-Departmental Community Safety Working Group, the body which oversees the planning and delivery of strategies and activities, across Northern Territory Government agencies and funded services, that relate to the creation of safe communities; the implementation of the Northern Territory Government's public safety model and the reduction of anti-social behaviour; the implementation of the Youth Justice Strategy; and homelessness and housing stress in the Northern Territory. Through the Community Safety Working Group, the Homelessness Working Group reports to the NT Government Chief Executive Coordination Group.

The Northern Territory Homelessness Working Group will be working closely with the Northern Territory based Commonwealth agencies and local government to ensure a whole of government approach to reducing homelessness.

## COMMONWEALTH FUNDING

Commonwealth funding of \$25.492 million will be provided towards implementation of the Agreement, as outlined in Table 1. The Commonwealth will make facilitation payments to the Territory, subject to an annual review of achievement of performance.

**Table 1.** Commonwealth funding to be provided towards implementation in the Territory of the National Partnership Agreement on Homelessness

<b>Output</b>	<b>Funding 08-09 (\$m)</b>	<b>Funding 09-10 (\$m)</b>	<b>Funding 10-11 (\$m)</b>	<b>Funding 11-12 (\$m)</b>	<b>Funding 12-13 (\$m)</b>	<b>Funding TOTAL (\$m)</b>
A Place to Call Home	1.288	1.288	1.288	1.288	2.688	7.84
Other outputs		3.25	4.686	4.914	4.914	17.764
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1.288</b>	<b>4.538</b>	<b>5.974</b>	<b>6.202</b>	<b>7.49</b>	<b>25.604</b>

## NORTHERN TERRITORY FUNDING

The Northern Territory will provide matching funding of \$29.389 million towards the Agreement, as outlined in Table 2.

**Table 2.** Northern Territory funding to be provided towards implementation of the National Partnership Agreement on Homelessness.

<b>Output</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Funding 08-09 (\$m)</b>	<b>Funding 09-10 (\$m)</b>	<b>Funding 10-11 (\$m)</b>	<b>Funding 11-12 (\$m)</b>	<b>Funding 12-13 (\$m)</b>	<b>Funding TOTAL (\$m)</b>
A Place to Call Home	APTCH (support and capital funding)	0.249	2.238	2.007	2.256	1.329	8.079
Street to home for chronic homeless people	Intervention and Case Management Service	0.65	0.65	0.65	0.65	0.65	3.25
Support for private and public tenants to help sustain their tenancies	Domestic Violence Support	0.5	5.0	5.0	4.5	0.0	15.0
Assistance for people leaving child protection services, correctional and health facilities.	Young people leaving care program	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	1.0
	Prison In-reach Program	0.515	0.515	0.515	0.515	0.0	2.06
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>2.114</b>	<b>8.603</b>	<b>8.372</b>	<b>8.121</b>	<b>2.179</b>	<b>29.389</b>

## **PROJECTS FUNDED UNDER THE AGREEMENT**

Commonwealth and Northern Territory funding will be distributed each year to projects that are deemed to contribute to achieving the core outputs of the Agreement. The distribution of Commonwealth funding for 2009-10 is described in Table 3 and the distribution of Northern Territory funding for 2009 to 2013 is described in Table 4. Attachment A provides detailed descriptions of projects to be funded under the Agreement.

The Commonwealth funded new projects for the upcoming financial years will be agreed by March 30 each year between the Territory and the Commonwealth. Projects funded may be altered, subject to the agreement of both Governments.

## **PERFORMANCE MONITORING AND REPORTING**

Under the Agreement, the Commonwealth and State and Territory Governments have committed to achieving the following targets by 2013:

- ◆ Reducing the number of Australians who are homeless by seven per cent;
- ◆ Reducing the number of Indigenous Australians who are homeless by a third; and
- ◆ Reducing the number of Australians who are experiencing primary homelessness (rough sleeping) by 25 per cent.

These targets will be achieved through combined efforts of all governments under the Agreement as well as through a range of other agreements and initiatives (including the Alice Springs Transformation Plan).

Significant data development is required to determine targets for the Territory and baseline measures for these targets. The Commonwealth and Northern Territory will agree targets and baseline measures by 30 June 2010.

Performance indicators and output measures have been developed to measure project progress (Tables 3, 4 and Attachment A)

Reporting requirements under the Agreement should be read in conjunction with the provisions in Schedule C to the Intergovernmental Agreement on Federal Financial Relations.

The Territory will provide a detailed report on an annual basis to the Commonwealth against outputs and performance indicators, as detailed in this Implementation Plan. The Commonwealth will provide reports to the Northern Territory and other relevant stakeholders against the performance indicators, as detailed in this Implementation Plan. The reports will be provided within 12 weeks of the end of the relevant period.

**Table 3.** Commonwealth funded new projects for 2009/10 under the National Partnership Agreement on Homelessness in the Territory.

Project title	Description	Proponent	Region	Funding type	Funding 09/10 (\$m)	Outputs addressed	Performance measures
A Place to Call Home (APTCH)	Refer to Table 4.			Capital	1.288	<u>Core Outputs</u> (a)	Refer to Table 4.
Youth Development Crisis Accommodation	Provide support funding for 12 residential beds for young people aged 11-24 years in Tennant Creek in order to enable these homeless young people to develop a functional connection to the social, economic and cultural life of their community	Department of Health and Families	Tennant Creek	Recurrent	0.240	<u>Core Outputs</u> (b) (d) <u>Additional Outputs</u> (b) (d) (e) (g) (j)	- Number of Indigenous youth who are provided with secure and supported accommodation
Expression of Interest for street to home initiatives for chronic homeless people	Expression of Interest to further develop street to home initiatives for chronic homeless people	Led by Department of Local Government and Housing	NT wide	Recurrent	1.06	<u>Core Outputs</u> (b)	- Performance measures will be developed for each funded proposal.
Palmerston Youth Crisis Accommodation	A service to provide crisis accommodation in the Palmerston area for young people to reunify young people with their families and to ensure young people are linked to other supports such as in education, training, alcohol and other drugs services, living skills and counselling.	Department of Health and Families	Palmerston	Recurrent	0.3	<u>Core Outputs</u> (b) (d) <u>Additional Outputs</u> (b) (d) (e) (g) (j)	- Number of youth who are provided with secure and supported accommodation
Tenancy Sustainability Program	To expand Territory Housing's new Tenancy Sustainability Program (TSP) which provides intensive case management and life skills training to public housing tenants and applicants, as well as residents of Community Living Areas (Town Camps), who require assistance to manage and sustain their tenancies.	Department of Local Government and Housing	Urban areas	Recurrent	1.0	<u>Core Outputs</u> (c) <u>Additional Outputs</u> (a) (b) (g)	- Reduction in proportion of people who are evicted from public housing - Number of people with at risk tenancies who receive financial advice, life skills training and/or case management
Assistance for people leaving correctional services	A key aim is to enable a smooth reintegration into community with a strong case management model which builds on the strengths of participants to assist people to overcome barriers to re-integration and	Department of Justice	Darwin and Alice Springs	Recurrent	0.28	<u>Core Outputs</u> (d)	- Proportion of sentence plans/case plans that will incorporate post-release plans - Proportion of clients who will be referred to continuing

	reduce re offending behaviour.						education, training or employment post release
High Risk Youth Program	Develop program specifications for a program to respond to the needs of high risk youth in Alice Springs and Darwin	Department of Health and Families	Darwin and Alice Springs	Recurrent	0.11	<u>Additional Outputs</u> (e)	Development of a program to respond to needs of High Risk Youth in Alice Springs and Darwin.
Service Coordination System	Develop a housing and homelessness service coordination mechanism that links clients and providers in the Darwin region	Department of Local Government and Housing	Darwin	Recurrent	0.06	<u>Additional Outputs</u> (e)	An implementation plan for a Service Coordination System is developed.
Homelessness system mapping studies	Develop a place based understanding of the patterns of homelessness in Darwin, Maningrida and Katherine.	Department of Local Government and Housing	Darwin, Katherine and Maningrida	Recurrent	0.2	<u>Additional Outputs</u> (i)	Completion of targeted regional Homelessness action plans for all regions by 1 February 2011.

**Table 4.** Northern Territory Government funded new projects for matching arrangements from 2009 to 2013 under the National Partnership Agreement on Homelessness

Project title	Description	Proponent	Region	Funding type	Total Funding (\$m)	Outputs addressed	Performance measures
A Place to Call Home (APTCH)	Provision of life skills, tenancy training and other support to assist clients to develop capacity to maintain an independent public housing tenancy.	Department of Local Government and Housing	Urban areas	Recurrent and Capital	8.079	<u>Core Outputs</u> (a) (c)	- Number of households participating in APTCH - Proportion of APTCH households who are Indigenous - Proportion of APTCH households sustaining a tenancy 6 months after completing the program
Intervention and Case Management Service (ICMS)	The ICMS, principally aimed at Indigenous people sleeping rough in town areas, provides Return to Country, intervention, referral and identification services for homelessness and itinerant people across the Territory.	Department of Justice	Darwin	Recurrent	3.25	<u>Core Outputs</u> (b) <u>Additional Outputs</u> (a) (b) (c) (d) (e) (f) (g) (h)	- Numbers of people returned to home community.  - Number of accommodation referrals.
Domestic and Family Violence Support	Implementation of Family Violence Investment Strategy	Department of Health and Families	NT wide	Recurrent	15	<u>Core Outputs</u> (c) <u>Additional Outputs</u> (e) (f)	- Number of support periods with accommodation - Number of support periods without accommodation (outreach services)
Young people leaving care program	Assist young people leaving the care system and those who have previously left care of NT Families and Children (NTFC) to gain independence by providing linkages to employment, education, housing and other support services in accordance with legislative requirements.	Department of Health and Families	NT wide	Recurrent	1.0	<u>Core Outputs</u> (d) <u>Additional Outputs</u> (b) (c) (d) (e) (g) (j) (k)	- Number of <b>new</b> young clients engaged by the service
Prison In-reach Program	Provides comprehensive alcohol and other drug (AOD) assessments; individual and group counselling, and after care referrals to prisoners with AOD problems in the Darwin area.	Department of Justice	Darwin	Recurrent	0.206	<u>Core Outputs</u> (d)	- The number of closed episodes of care for young people - The number of closed episodes of care for adults - The proportion of total episodes where a referral is made on exit



The Parties have confirmed their commitment to this Implementation Plan as follows:

*Signed for and on behalf of the Commonwealth of Australia by*

.....  
Title

Date

*Signed for and on behalf of the Northern Territory of Australia by*

.....  
Title

Date

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REGARDING HOMELESSNESS IN THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

The Northern Territory has the highest rate of homelessness in Australia at 248 per 10 000 people (ABS 2006 Census). This figure is 3.5 times greater than that of Queensland, the jurisdiction with the next highest rate of homelessness at 68.6 per 10 000 people. The Counting the Homeless 2006 report shows that while homelessness rates vary dramatically across the Territory, from a high of 507 per 10 000 people in Katherine to 147 per 10 000 in Tennant Creek, the rate of homelessness in all locations across the Territory vastly exceeds the Australian average of 53 homeless people per 10 000 (refer Table 5).

Table 5: Number of homeless people and rate of homelessness per 10 000 people in the Territory

	Darwin	Katherine	Tennant Creek	Alice Springs	Remote	Total
Number	2478	415	43	446	1403	4785
Rate	234	507	147	187	281	248

Source: Census of Population and Housing 2006; SAAP Client Collection 2006; National Census of Homeless School Students 2006.

According to the 2006 Census, Indigenous people comprise 30 per cent of the Territory's population. It is clear that the high rate of homelessness in the Northern Territory can be largely attributed to excessive homelessness amongst this group. While the rate of Indigenous homelessness in the Northern Territory has fallen since the last Census in 2001 (from 344 to 287 per 10 000 people) this figure remains significantly higher than that of any other group in Australia. It is likely, however, that this figure is much higher than reported due to impediments in the collection of accurate Indigenous population data. It is generally accepted that the 2006 Census significantly undercounted the number of Indigenous people in the Northern Territory. Taylor and Biddle (2008) estimate that the undercount was as high as 19 per cent. As such, it is likely that homeless Indigenous people were undercounted as well.

There are a number of reasons contributing to the higher rate of homelessness in the Northern Territory including the proportionally higher Indigenous population (many of whom live in remote areas) and the significant shortage of affordable housing stock (rental and purchase). For Indigenous Territorians, compounding factors that work to increase the rate of homelessness include:

- the limited presence, and in some places a complete absence, of Supported Accommodation Assistance Program (SAAP) services in remote communities;
- the chronic levels of overcrowding and high numbers of people residing in unsafe housing;
- long waiting times for public housing in urban localities; and
- the apparent migration of Indigenous people to urban areas as a result of the Northern Territory Emergency Response, or to access services otherwise unavailable in their home communities and that may now be living rough or staying in temporary accommodation.

While Indigenous people are overrepresented in all sections of the homeless population in the Northern Territory (except amongst those staying with other households) it is important to note that non-Indigenous homelessness is also unacceptably high, at a rate of 235 per 10 000 people.

## THE NORTHERN TERRITORY'S HOMELESSNESS SERVICE SYSTEM

There is an array of government and community responses in place to address homelessness across the Northern Territory. These responses range from the provision of public and community housing, Supported Accommodation Assistance Program (SAAP) services, to specific services targeted at Indigenous people, young people, victims of family violence, and people with disabilities and/or mental health issues.

No single agency in the Northern Territory currently has carriage of Territory-wide homelessness information, service delivery or coordination. Multiple Government agencies provide services to homeless people. For example, the Department of Justice (DoJ) manages the Community Safety model; the Department of Health and Families (DHF) has carriage of SAAP, youth services, alcohol and other drugs, and the domestic violence unit; and the Department of Local Government and Housing manages public (urban and remote) housing. The non government sector, often supported by the Northern Territory or Commonwealth Governments, provides much of the service and accommodation support for people who are homeless or those at risk of homelessness in the Territory.

Under this Implementation Plan, services for homeless people in the Northern Territory will be improved by providing a Whole of Government focus, building capacity of service providers, undertaking joint planning, establishing improved systems of client information and data sharing, and increasing the availability of affordable and appropriate accommodation.

To progress this work, and to ensure that such cross-government coordination and planning occurs across all areas of the homeless system, the NT Government has formed a Housing Support Working Group (HSWG) to engage with local community housing and support providers. Specifically, the HSWG provides Minister for Families and Children and the Minister for Housing, through the Department of Local Government and Housing and the Department of Health and Families, with high level advice on issues relating to housing and related support in the NT, and will encourage and support cross program collaboration in relation to housing and related support services.

## IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AGREEMENT

Addressing homelessness in the Territory will require investment in additional public housing in remote areas, investment in additional short term and transitional accommodation in urban areas, improving tenancy sustainability in public housing dwellings and providing support services to homeless people. As such, homelessness will be addressed through several National Partnership Agreements, including the Nation Building and Jobs Plan National Partnership Agreement Social Housing Initiative.

The National Partnership Agreement on Homelessness will target urban centres of Darwin, Katherine, Tennant Creek and Alice Springs. The National Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Housing will provide capital funding for the construction of new housing and to upgrade existing housing in remote communities and town camps.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REGARDING PROJECTS AND PERFORMANCE MEASURES

### COMMONWEALTH FUNDED NEW PROEJCTS TO ADDRESS HOMELESSNESS UNDER THE AGREEMENT

Commonwealth funding will be distributed each year to projects that are deemed to contribute to achieving the outputs of the Agreement. Projects to be funded in 2009/10 are described below for each of the output areas.

#### CORE OUTPUTS

##### **(a) A Place to Call Home**

The Northern Territory's A Place to Call Home (APTCH) program will be broadly targeted towards individuals or families who are homeless or at risk of homelessness in the community, with a focus on Indigenous people.

Under this program, Commonwealth funding of \$7.84M will be provided over 5 years to purchase or construct an additional 32 new public housing dwellings.

Refer to Table 1 and the program description on page 15 for further details.

Performance Measure	Provisional Targets			
	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Number of households participating in APTCH	10	18	24	32
Proportion of APTCH households who are Indigenous	80%	80%	80%	80%
Proportion of APTCH households sustaining a tenancy 6 months after completing the program	70%	75%	80%	80%

##### **(b) Street to home initiatives for chronically homeless people (rough sleepers)**

##### **Youth Development Crisis Accommodation – Tennant Creek**

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. Accommodation in the crisis houses is contingent on the young people being identified as homeless or at risk of homelessness, and them agreeing to engage in work, training or education. The program has been operating successfully for almost two years under Shared Responsibility Agreement funding from the Commonwealth Government. This funding will cease on 30 September 2009. National Partnership Agreement on Homelessness funding will be provided from September 2009 to June 2010.

Performance Measure	Provisional Targets			
	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Number of Indigenous youth who are provided with secure and supported accommodation	50	50	50	50

### **Expressions of Interest to identify street to home initiatives for chronic homeless people**

This initiative is an Expression of Interest (EOI) process to fund proposals for non-government providers for street to home initiatives for chronic homeless people (rough sleepers). A joint Northern Territory and Commonwealth Government assessment team will assess the proposals to identify projects to be funded in 2009/10. Additionally, the assessment team will analyse the proposals to identify projects for inclusion in funding recommendations for future years of the Agreement. The EOI process will therefore lead to practical responses for chronic homeless people as well as contribute to longer term planning through a better understanding of the gaps in the service system.

**Performance Measures:** Performance measures will be developed for each funded proposal.

### **Palmerston Youth Crisis Accommodation**

This proposal is for support funding for a service to provide up to 8 crisis beds in the Palmerston area, with 24 hour support. The proposed model would include the coordination of a range of services to ensure young people were linked to other supports such as education, training, alcohol and other drugs services, living skills and counselling. The service would also actively work to reunify young people with their families. It is proposed to operate the service from October 2009.

Performance Measure	Provisional Targets			
	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Number of youth who are provided with secure and supported accommodation	15	30	30	30

### **(c) Support for private and public tenants to help sustain their tenancies, including through tenancy support, advocacy, case management, financial counselling and referral services**

#### **Tenancy Sustainability Program**

This initiative will expand Territory Housing's new Tenancy Sustainability Program (TSP) which provides intensive case management and life skills training to public housing tenants and applicants, as well as residents of Community Living Areas (Town Camps), who require assistance to manage and sustain their tenancies.

The TSP aims to:

- Increase the knowledge and capacity of tenants to meet their tenancy obligations and responsibilities;
- Improve the sustainability of tenancies by supporting clients to develop the knowledge and skills to successfully maintain a safe and healthy home and living environment;
- Reduce repairs and maintenance costs and increase the life of housing infrastructure;
- Improve environmental health outcomes for households; and
- Better integrate socially and economically isolated tenants into the broader community in order to support their connectedness to their neighbourhoods and improve their opportunities for social, cultural and economic success.

Increased funding for this program will provide services for additional clients in public housing and on town camps as well as increase the capacity of service providers, with a view to expanding the program to private tenants in the later years of the Agreement, subject to Commonwealth Government funding approval.

Performance Measure	Provisional Targets			
	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Reduction in proportion of people who are evicted from public housing	First year outcome will establish baseline/ targets			
Number of people case managed through TSP	54	64	77	77
Number of people who receive financial counselling through TSP	216	256	307	307

**(d) Assistance for people leaving child protection services, correctional and health facilities to access and maintain stable, affordable housing**

**Assistance for people leaving correctional services**

This initiative targets people exiting prison and juvenile detention. The key aim of the program is to enable a smooth re-integration into community with a strong case management model which builds on the strengths of participants to assist people to overcome barriers to re-integration and reduce re-offending behaviour. The service timeframe will be a maximum of six months with an optimum timeframe of between three to four months. The service will be provided pre release, at prison or detention centre, on the street and at other places. The service will participate in and facilitate the development of reintegration plans, and facilitate the active involvement of clients, their families and other significant support networks and agencies.

Performance Measures	Provisional Targets			
	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Proportion of sentence plans/case plans that will incorporate post-release plans	100%			
Proportion of clients who will be referred to continuing education, training or employment post release	100%			

**ADDITIONAL OUTPUTS**

**(e) Improvements in service coordination and provision**

**Develop program to respond to needs of high risk youth**

This initiative will develop program specifications for a program to respond to the needs of high risk youth in Alice Springs and Darwin. These young people currently fall through the gaps in between different services. The program development will incorporate findings from an evaluation to be conducted of an effective program in Tennant Creek. Through this project, the Department of Health and Families will work with the provider of the Tennant Creek Youth Development Crisis Accommodation Program to evaluate that program to inform the development of similar programs in Alice Springs and Darwin. This project will also incorporate a qualitative study to track specific high risk young people through the justice, health, education and child protection systems to identify their pathways across these 'systems'. A better understanding of these pathways will assist in the design of a service that response to the needs of these young people.

**Performance Measure:** Development of a program to respond to needs of high risk youth in Alice Springs and Darwin.

**Service Coordination System**

This program will develop a housing and homelessness service coordination mechanism that links clients and providers in the Darwin region. This project will identify the information management, information technology and practical coordination requirements for a Service Coordination System that provides real time information on the availability of existing services for clients in the Darwin and Palmerston region, with potential for expansion to other centres. The project will involve government agencies and non-government service providers and will lead to better outcomes for clients through improvements in service coordination.

**Performance Measure:** An implementation plan for a Service Coordination System is developed.

**(i) National, State and rural (including remote) homelessness action plans to assist homeless people in areas identified as having high rates of homelessness.**

### **Homelessness system mapping studies**

As part of the development of regional action plans for all Northern Territory regions, this project will focus on three centres – Darwin, Maningrida and Katherine – to develop a place based understanding of the patterns of homelessness. Through the project, Northern Territory agencies will work with local service providers and local government and Commonwealth agencies to map current services; develop an understanding of the seasonal patterns of homelessness in each place; undertake case studies of homeless people to build an understanding of the different motivations and choices that lead people to access (or not access) particular services in particular places; and develop a better understanding of the various destinations for these homeless people. This study will contribute to an understanding of patterns of Indigenous mobility which will inform better targeting of homelessness and other government services.

**Performance Measure:** Completion of targeted regional Homelessness Action Plans by 1 February 2011.

## **NORTHERN TERRITORY NEW MATCHING PROJECTS TO ADDRESS HOMELESSNESS UNDER THE AGREEMENT**

A range of new Northern Territory Government funded projects will be implemented to address homelessness under the National Partnership Agreement on Homelessness. Projects are described below for each of the core output areas.

### **(a) A Place to Call Home**

#### **Tenancy Support Program - A Place to Call Home**

The Northern Territory's A Place to Call Home (APTCH) program will be broadly targeted towards individuals or families who are homeless or at risk of homelessness in the community, with a focus on Indigenous people. The APTCH will form a component of the Darwin region contract for Territory Housing's new Tenancy Sustainability Program (TSP).

APTCH program participants will be housed and supported for a 12 month period in a public housing dwelling that has been head leased to a support organisation. Through the provision of life skills, tenancy training and other support, APTCH aims to assist clients to develop capacity to maintain an independent public housing tenancy in the long term. Once the intensive support period concludes, APTCH clients will not be required to move from their dwelling, rather the tenancy will transition into public housing (change in tenure, not change in premises) and support will continue to be made available through normal public housing support programs. At the end of the 5 year program there will also be a net increase of 32 in public housing stock numbers.

**Performance Measures:** Refer to performance measures outlined under Core Outputs – A Place to Call Home

### **(b) Street to home initiatives for chronically homeless people (rough sleepers)**

#### **Intervention and Case Management Service**

Intervention and Case Management Service (ICMS) incorporating 'Return to Country' aims to reduce anti-social behaviour in the Darwin and Palmerston (similar services are provided in Katherine and Alice Springs under relative budget arrangements). The ICMS, principally aimed at Indigenous people sleeping rough in town areas, provides Return to Country, intervention, referral and identification services for homelessness and itinerant people across the Territory. The ICMS links in with a range of patrolling, rehabilitation and accommodation services provided through the government and non-government sector to assist people living as itinerants and, where appropriate, assist them to return to their home community. Services include:

- A return to home/return to country program;
- Transport services (e.g. to and from medical appointments; from the watch house / sobering up shelter to other services etc);
- Proof of identity services;
- Prisoner release/repatriation assistance; and
- Information and/or referral services (e.g. assistance in obtaining accommodation or welfare payments).



Performance Measure	Targets				
	Baseline (08-09 average)	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Numbers of people returned to home community.	4,000 people	5% increase in number of people returned to their home community from Darwin (200 people).			
Number of accommodation referrals.	205 people referred to accommodation	The number of people experiencing primary homelessness in Darwin referred to accommodation placements will be maintained at the 08/09 level as a minimum.			

**(c) Support for private and public tenants to help sustain their tenancies, including through tenancy support, advocacy, case management, financial counselling and referral services**  
**(f) Support for women and children experiencing domestic and family violence to stay in their present housing where it is safe to do so**

### Domestic and Family Violence Support

A significant proportion of homeless people in the Northern Territory are victims of domestic and family violence. Over a third of clients accessing SAAP services in the Northern Territory in 2006/07 were seeking assistance due to domestic or family violence. Successful prevention, early intervention and crisis responses for victims of family and domestic violence are an essential part of any response to homelessness in the Northern Territory.

Significant work is underway by the lead agency, Department of Health and Families, to finalise a Family Violence Investment Strategy that prioritises the allocation of \$15M funding commencing in 2009/10 over three years. This Strategy supports the mandatory reporting provisions in the *Domestic and Family Violence Act* which took effect on 12 March 2009 making the reporting of serious physical harm between people in a domestic relationship mandatory in the Northern Territory. The Strategy is informed by the implementation of mandatory reporting across the health, community legal and domestic and family violence sectors with a focus on improving service integration and coordination across the government and non-government sector.

The Family Violence Investment Strategy will assist in preventing people experiencing family violence from exiting into sustained patterns of homelessness. A key component of the Strategy will be to boost the capacity of the domestic violence support sector to provide assistance to families experiencing this type of violence, as well as to expand the sector through the provision of some additional accommodation facilities.

Priority themes in the Strategy include prevention, early intervention and crisis responses and are informed by service gaps in frontline responses to domestic and family violence and increasing the capacity of critical service points that respond to serious physical harm.

The Strategy is currently being finalised, but it will fund: a significant preventative social marketing campaign that seeks to change attitudes to family violence; a schools based program that creates a safe environment for young people to talk about domestic and family violence and sexual assault; development and delivery of specialised domestic and family violence training to across the health, community, legal and domestic and family violence sectors; and expansion of the domestic and family violence crisis accommodation sector; and the establishment of a twenty four hour telephone counselling service which will connect victims and concerned people to local, trained counsellors who will also provide a referral service that is based on a sound working knowledge of the family violence and homelessness service system.

Performance Measure	Provisional Targets				
	Baseline 2007-08	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Number of support periods with accommodation	2500				
Number of support periods without accommodation (outreach services)	1600				

**(d) Assistance for people leaving child protection services, correctional and health facilities to access and maintain stable, affordable housing**

**Young People Leaving Care Program**

This program assists young people leaving the care system and those who have previously left care of Northern Territory Families and Children (NTFC) 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 support programs and services that relate to accommodation, education/training, employment, legal and health services, and counselling.

Transition from care issues for the young person will be articulated in an overarching Leaving Care Plan to find the most appropriate support solutions for the young client. These plans will be based on the individual needs of the young person leaving care and will be developed in consultation with young clients, NTFC caseworkers, and where relevant their carer and other stakeholders including non-government organisations, or other significant people in the young persons' life. Funding is available to assist young people to access support and services and will be directly linked to those issues identified in a young persons Leaving Care Plan.

The Performance Measures for the After Care Service have yet to be formally defined, however performance measures are nominated below.

Performance Measures	Provisional Targets			
	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Number of <b>new</b> young clients engaged by the service	30	20	15	15

**Prison In-Reach Program**

The Prison In-Reach Program provides comprehensive alcohol and other drug (AOD) assessments; individual and group counselling, and after care referrals to prisoners with AOD problems in the Darwin area. The program is targeted towards adult or juvenile prisoners at Don Dale and Darwin Correctional Centre with alcohol and/or other drug problems who have been sentenced to prison for six months or less, or those who are on remand awaiting trial. The program offers voluntary group sessions, brief interventions, one-on-one counselling and post release referral to inmates who would like to access AOD services whilst incarcerated. While the program is voluntary, inmates are encouraged to attend the in-reach sessions if their crime is drug or alcohol related. The program has a strong emphasis on linking people with support and aftercare services following release.

Performance Measure	Provisional Targets			
	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
The number of closed episodes of care for young people	12			
The number of closed episodes of care for adults	300			
The proportion of total episodes where a referral is made on exit	25%			