

**Western Australia's
State Homelessness Strategy
Monitoring Committee**

Response to

**Evaluation Study of the
Implementation of
Initiatives in the Government's
Response
to the WA State Homelessness
Taskforce**

March 2004

INTRODUCTION

The State Homelessness Taskforce was established in July 2001 and presented its report ***State Homelessness Taskforce – Addressing Homelessness in Western Australia in January 2002***. The report contained 68 recommendations including some which required funding and others which required government agencies to work together to improve the service system's response to homeless people and preventing homelessness.

In **May 2002** the Government of Western Australia announced its strategy in response to the Taskforce report in the document ***the Government Response to the State Homelessness Taskforce – 'Putting People First'*** and the Premier, the Hon Geoff Gallop announced funding of \$32 million over four years to tackle homelessness and social exclusion.

The Government moved quickly to develop the funded responses including additional housing and new support services. The priority was to implement the funded innovative components of the strategy.

A Monitoring Committee was established to oversee the implementation of the response and report back to Cabinet on its progress and prepare an evaluation on the implementation by December 2003. (See Attachment 1 for membership list)

Estill and Associates were commissioned to undertake the evaluation, which was completed in December 2003. The report ***Evaluation Study of the Implementation of the Initiatives on the Government's Response to the WA State Homelessness Taskforce – December 2003*** is attached.

The scope of the evaluation was:

1. Implementation – were the initiatives outlined in the Government Response implemented as planned?
2. Timeliness – has the implementation of the initiatives been timely?
3. Short-falls – have there been any short-falls in the implementation?
4. Impacts – have there been any unintended consequences (positive or negative) of the implementation process?
5. Program logic – what is the program logic underpinning the implementation?
6. Performance indicators – are the performance indicators useful and sufficient?

Below is a summary of the overall evaluation findings, and a table (Attachment 2) summarising the findings for each recommendation and including a comment or response from the State Homelessness Monitoring Committee on each.

EVALUATION FINDINGS

The findings overall are positive. The evaluators found the implementation of the Government's initiatives in response to the State Homelessness Taskforce recommendations has been both satisfactory and timely in the majority of cases. Performance indicators were found to be both useful and sufficient, with a small number of minor exceptions.

Key findings are as follows.

- Overall, promised funding has been allocated as planned and there have been no major delays in flow-through to service providers.

- There has been a positive impact on the level of co-operation and collaboration between Government agencies, between non-Government organisations and between Government agencies and non-Government organisations. While this has led to increased flexibility in the implementation of particular strategies and to collaborative problem-solving, it has also led to some slowing of the implementation process.
- Progress on a small number of initiatives has been delayed as their funding has been deferred.
- Overall, there is an expectation that the Government's initiatives will have a positive impact on homelessness.
- Implementation of the Government's response to the State Homelessness Taskforce recommendations has suffered a number of difficulties that are common to cross-sector initiatives, particularly in the social welfare arena. These were identified as a continuation of the silo effect at the procedural level and conflicting agendas between agencies being expected to maximise economic returns and at the same time contribute to social policy initiatives.

A few areas were identified as requiring further work and a number of recommendations made.

Performance Indicators

Overall the Performance Indicators developed for the project were considered useful and measurable however the evaluators recommended two of the performance indicators, 9.2, *Increase in support services such as Street Doctor Service*, and 10.1, *Agency ratings at policy and operational level of co-operation and collaboration on homelessness issues across participating agencies*, be reviewed with the aim of ensuring they can be measured adequately.

The Monitoring Committee will adjust these measures to ensure they are appropriate.

Areas Identified for Further Work

Although 49 (72%) of initiatives were evaluated as satisfactory by stakeholders a small number of shortfalls or areas for further work were identified:

- The development of a system to monitor evictions due to antisocial behaviour (2.1.8) was assessed as making unsatisfactory progress.
- Concern was expressed that the implementation of initiatives 2.1.6, 2.2.3 and 2.4.3.3 has been delayed following the temporary withdrawal of funding by the Department of Health.
- It was identified that insufficient work has been done on initiative 3.3.1 to develop an information strategy to encourage debate and discussion on issues around homelessness.
- Less than satisfactory progress has been made to address the difficult areas of inner city homelessness, rough sleepers and those banned from services (initiatives 2.4.1.2, 2.4.2.3 and 2.4.2.4)
- The report praised the work done by the Government in implementing consistent funding arrangements across departments but recommended that cross-government strategies be strongly supported to further break down the "silo" effect and encourage practical linkages between agency systems and procedures (More integrated programs). It also recommended the development of better ways of funding whole of government initiatives (Initiative 3.4.3).

Since the announcement of the Government's Response to the State Homelessness Taskforce in May 2002, Government agencies have been working solidly to establish

new services and initiatives with the \$32 million allocated to the Strategy. The majority of these have now been implemented or are nearing commencement. It is acknowledged that further work needs to be undertaken in some areas. During 2004 the Monitoring Committee will focus on identified shortfalls.

A specific response to each identified shortfall is provided against the relevant initiative in the attached evaluation summary.

Recommendations (summarised)

- Continue the high levels of inter agency cooperation and collaboration in addressing identified shortfalls.
- Quarantine funds allocated to homelessness initiatives to ensure they receive recurrent funding.
- Seek opportunities to improve and integrate management systems that encourage collaboration and cooperation.
- Support cross-government strategies to further break down the “silo” effect and encourage practical linkages between agency systems and procedures.

The Monitoring Committee supports these recommendations.

During the consultations stakeholders also expressed concern about a number of issues that were outside the scope of the State Homelessness Strategy. These included:

- The need for additional resources for children in refuges in the metropolitan area.
- Level of funding for emergency accommodation services.
- A number of issues which were raised by the Taskforce but not addressed in the Government’s response:
 - Indigenous homelessness in rural and remote areas
 - Other factors affecting homelessness – eg drug abuse, dysfunctional behaviour, difficulty of accommodating large families, race discrimination from private landlords.
 - Continued evictions due to rent areas – lack of other options.
- There is no mechanism for showing what other initiatives might be beneficial.
- There is no formal mechanism to systematically identify new initiatives, which have been undertaken outside the strategy (eg City of Perth survey of people sleeping rough in the inner city).
- These are developmental performance indicators that need to improve as more is learned, and

Another issue that was raised was that there is no single measure of the level of homelessness. However since the evaluation was conducted the Counting the Homeless 2001 report was released in November 2003. It replicated the analysis of the 1996 ABS Census figures provided in the first Counting the Homeless report. The number of homeless people in all categories remained relatively stable across the two reporting periods. The close consistency of the data between the two periods (1996 and 2001) indicates that the counting was accurate and reliable. The figures indicated the homeless population (across the three categories, primary, secondary and tertiary) in Australia is around 100,000 and in Western Australia around 12,000 on any one night.

In concluding, the evaluators recommended that the State Homelessness Strategy Monitoring Committee undertake a further review of the State Homelessness Strategy to ensure that the scope and priorities of the strategy are still appropriate.

The Monitoring Committee will continue to monitor the implementation of the Government's response to the recommendations of the State Homelessness Taskforce.

CONCLUSION

The Western Australian State Homelessness Strategy Monitoring Committee commends the *Evaluation Study of the Implementation of Initiatives in the Government's Response to the WA State Homelessness Taskforce, December 2003* to Human Services Directors General and the Cabinet Standing Committee on Social Policy. The Evaluation clearly shows the Strategy has been successfully implemented to date, that it has the support of Government and non-Government agencies working in homelessness and related areas and that the work should continue.

State Homelessness Strategy

Monitoring Committee Membership

Pauline Bagdonavicius (Chair)	Department for Community Development
Tony Pietropiccolo	Director Centrecare, President of WACOSS, Chairperson of the State Homelessness Taskforce
Colleen Hayward/ Glenn Pearson	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission
Michael Thorn/ Genevieve Errey	Department of the Premier and Cabinet
Bob Thomas	Department of Housing and Works
Peter Wilkins	Office of the Auditor General
Bill Cullen	Department of Justice
Dr Aaron Groves	Department of Health, Mental Health Division
Executive Support Helen Miskell	Department for Community Development

WA State Homelessness Strategy

Summary and Responses to the Findings of the Evaluation of the Implementation

*WA State Homelessness Strategy
Summary and Responses to the Findings of the Evaluation of the Implementation*

Recommendation Summary	Summary of Government Commitments For full text see The Government's Response to the Report of the Homelessness Taskforce: <u>'Putting People First'</u>	Evaluation Finding on Progress of Implementation Monitoring Committee Response/Comment
1. ACCESS TO APPROPRIATE AND AFFORDABLE ACCOMMODATION		
<i>1.1 State housing strategy to include the development and retention of affordable housing</i>		
<p>1.1.1 Ensure the State Housing Strategy includes proposals for increasing the supply of affordable housing.</p>	<p><i>Housing Strategy WA</i> will be put to consultation by October 2002. The needs of Indigenous people, CALD and people with disabilities will be given a high priority.</p>	<p>Satisfactory</p> <p>Monitoring Committee Comment <i>The decline in affordable housing for households for lower income people has been identified as a major issue in the development of Department of Housing and Works' (DHW)Housing Strategy WA. The draft strategy will be released for community consultation in the first half of 2004.</i></p> <p><i>DHW is looking at the feasibility of introducing a not-for-profit charitable housing company to increase affordable housing for low to moderate income earners.</i></p>
<p>1.1.2 Ensure the State Housing Strategy includes a continuum of housing types in all locations to promote community sustainability</p>	<p>The Housing Strategy will address needs in rural and remote areas as well as metropolitan. It will encourage construction that uses sustainability principles. WACOSS <i>Housing and Sustainable Communities Indicators</i> will be used. The <i>New Living Program</i> will continue.</p>	<p>Satisfactory</p> <p>Monitoring Committee Comment <i>DHW's Housing Strategy WA contains strategies to provide a range of housing options to meet housing needs over the next 30 years including rural and remote housing needs.</i></p>

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<p>1.1.3 On State owned land sold for redevelopment for housing a minimum of 10% to be allocated to either increase additional affordable housing on the existing site or set aside for affordable housing in alternative locations.</p>	<p>This recommendation will be forwarded to the people working on the development of the State Housing Strategy for their consideration and action.</p>	<p>Satisfactory</p> <p>Monitoring Committee Comment <i>DHW's Housing Strategy WA will make a recommendation on this matter, however its implementation is subject to gaining the cooperation of other agencies with identifiable surplus land.</i></p>
<p>1.2 Increase Government funding for social housing</p>		
<p>1.2.1 The Taskforce considers that a key underlying principle of the Commonwealth State Housing Agreement (CSHA) is to have a mandate to address homelessness.</p>	<p>When negotiating the next <i>Commonwealth State Housing Agreement, (CSHA)</i> the Government will ensure that all groups in society, including people who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless will have their housing needs addressed.</p>	<p>Satisfactory</p> <p>Monitoring Committee Comment <i>All States and Territories have now signed the new Commonwealth State Housing Agreement the guiding principles of which ensure that social housing continues to be targeted to all vulnerable groups in society.</i></p>
<p>1.2.2 The Taskforce supports the retention and enhancement of the CSHA with a clear focus on homelessness.</p>	<p>To give certainty to the States on future funding, all parties are seeking to finalise a new Commonwealth State Housing Agreement by July 2002.</p>	<p>Satisfactory</p> <p>Monitoring Committee Comment <i>As per 1.2.1</i></p>

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<p>1.2.3 Injection of Commonwealth funds to maintain and increase current social housing and stock levels.</p>	<p>Increased funding from the Commonwealth will be sought to increase the amount of social housing that is affordable for low-income households. Any increase from the Commonwealth will be matched by the State.</p>	<p>Commitment undertaken but outcome not achieved</p> <p>Monitoring Committee Comment <i>The WA Government has unsuccessfully sought additional Australian Government funds for public housing.</i></p>
<p>1.2.4 Injection of State funds to maintain and increase current social housing stock levels.</p>	<p>A special one-off injection of \$10.5 million will be made to provide additional public housing. \$5million will be allocated for general public housing and \$5.5 million to provide special needs housing to be targeted at people with mental health problems and people leaving prisons.</p>	<p>Satisfactory</p> <p>Monitoring Committee Comment DHW have provided an additional 125 units of accommodation with the \$10.5 million provided through the State Homelessness Strategy.</p>
<p>1.2.5 The State to negotiate with the Commonwealth for an increase in funding for Aboriginal housing.</p>	<p>The State is also negotiating an innovative bi-lateral housing infrastructure agreement with Commonwealth through ATSIC worth \$80m. It is expected that agreement will be reached for a 1 July 2002 start.</p>	<p>Satisfactory</p> <p>Monitoring Committee Comment <i>The State Government has signed a Housing and Infrastructure Agreement with the Australian Government and ATSIC which commits the parties to the pooling of funds to be administered by the DHW Aboriginal Housing and Infrastructure Directorate (AHID) from July 2002 to June 2007.</i></p>

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<p>1.2.6 Local Government to be involved in a three way partnership with State and Commonwealth Government in negotiating CSHA.</p>	<p>The State Government will ask the Commonwealth to invite Local Government to participate in the Commonwealth State Housing Agreement negotiations.</p>	<p>Progressing through other methods</p> <p>Monitoring Committee Comment <i>DHW advise the negotiation process meant that there was no time appropriate to raise the issue of including local government in a three-way partnership for a housing agreement that is between the Australian Government and States. However, local Government, through the WA Local Government Association will be involved by DHW in the development of initiatives to increase the supply of affordable housing in WA.</i></p>
<p>1.3 Broaden opportunities for increasing the amount, durability and type of affordable housing</p>		
<p>1.3.1 Increase the use of durable building materials and fittings in social housing.</p>	<p>DHW's <i>Management Support Program</i> and its <i>Remote Village Construction Program</i> will continue to work towards improving the state of housing in remote Indigenous communities.</p>	<p>Satisfactory</p> <p>Monitoring Committee Comment <i>DHW commenced the construction of 102 more durable dwellings in 2002/03 and plans a further 99 for 2003/2004.</i></p>
<p>1.3.2 Increase the quality of housing in Indigenous Communities to eliminate 'homelessness in homelands'.</p>	<p>The Government will continue to work towards improving the state of housing in remote Indigenous communities</p>	<p>Satisfactory</p> <p>Monitoring Committee Comment <i>In 2002/03, \$35.744 million was spent for Aboriginal programs through DHW's Aboriginal Housing and Infrastructure Directorate and a further \$49.55 million has been budgeted for 2003/04.</i></p>

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<p>1.3.3 Increasing Aboriginal management to 18% of urban community housing stock.</p>	<p>DHW will encourage an increase in the management of community housing by Indigenous groups by providing infrastructure support and training. The Community Housing Coalition of Western Australia (CHCWA) will be the main vehicle for assisting Indigenous groups to acquire the necessary skills to manage community housing.</p>	<p>Satisfactory</p> <p>Monitoring Committee Comment <i>DHW have implemented strategies to meet this commitment.</i></p>
<p>1.3.4 Community Housing reaches a target of 18% of Aboriginal occupancy.</p>	<p>It is proposed to achieve the target figure of 18% over a five-year term with a target of 5% by 30 June 2003.</p>	<p>Satisfactory</p> <p>Monitoring Committee Comment <i>DHW estimate 30% of community housing properties house Indigenous people.</i></p>
<p>1.4 Optimise the access and use of existing housing for people low incomes</p>		
<p>1.4.1 Develop a system to enable data matching of tenants on waiting lists for long term community housing and public housing. One off project.</p>	<p>DHW will develop the data system in conjunction with CHCWA, as part of the <i>Community Housing Strategic Plan</i> that is due for completion by 31 December 2002.</p>	<p>Unsatisfactory</p> <p>Monitoring Committee Response <i>In addition to DHW having a percentage of referral allocation rights to new projects with Regional Housing Associations, The Community Housing Coalition of WA is developing a discussion paper on a common waiting list for all social housing providers. The paper includes the issue of data-matching which aims to determine whether applicants are registered on several waiting lists, therefore skewing the true demand figures for social housing.</i></p>

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<p>1.4.2 Review and implement changes to transitional accommodation provided through the Crisis Accommodation Program to enable the tenant to take the lease and a replacement property provided.</p>	<p>DHW and DCD will develop suitable protocols for the implementation of this recommendation.</p>	<p>Satisfactory</p> <p>Monitoring Committee Comment <i>Protocols are now in place to enable clients in self-contained crisis accommodation to remain in residence and become a public housing tenant, while DHW then locates an alternate property for use under the Crisis Accommodation Program.</i></p>
<p>1.4.3 Increase the amount of bond assistance currently provided by Housing and Works for people to access private rental to the full cost of the bond and two weeks rent in advance.</p>	<p>From 1 March 2002, the Government increased the maximum bond loan amounts to better reflect the amount of bond required. Evaluation required.</p>	<p>Satisfactory</p> <p>Monitoring Committee Comment <i>DHW has increased bond loan amounts and is now also able to provide ingoing fees (letting fees and rent in advance) on an "as needs" basis.</i></p>

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<p>1.4.4 Examine options for incentives for private landlords to accommodate people on low incomes.</p>	<p>DHW has established a pilot project with the Real Estate Institute of WA to assist 10 Indigenous families into private rental sector accommodation. The Department will underwrite any rent loss or property damage and provide additional support to the tenants where appropriate, at an estimated cost of \$100,000. A review of the trial will be complete by 31 December 2002.</p> <p>Note: this is the same as for 1.4.5 below.</p>	<p>Satisfactory</p> <p>Monitoring Committee Comment <i>DHW advise the REIWA Indigenous families project has been replaced with the Perth Management Services (PMS) private rental project. In addition, the DCD funded Wesley Homelink service will assist Indigenous families who meet the service criteria.</i></p> <p><i>Homeless people who contact the DHW regional offices or the Homeless Helpline are assessed for eligibility and may be referred to these agencies for housing if appropriate.</i></p> <p><i>The majority of referrals for Perth Management Services are from Indigenous families who cannot access the private rental market. Since the commencement of the project in November 2002, 16 Indigenous families have been accommodated.</i></p>
<p>1.4.5 Department of Housing and Works build on the current pilot project with the Real Estate Institute of WA to enable Aboriginal people and young people to access private rental by headleasing private rental stock, underwriting potential damage and the provision of support.</p>	<p>DHW has established a pilot project with the Real Estate Institute of WA to assist 10 Indigenous families into private rental sector accommodation. The Department will underwrite any rent loss or property damage and provide additional support to the tenants where appropriate, at an estimated cost of \$100,000. A review of the trial will be complete by 31 December 2002.</p>	<p>Satisfactory</p> <p>Monitoring Committee Comment <i>Along with the response noted in 1.4.4, additional promotional activities have taken place with REIWA.</i></p>

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<p>1.4.6 Abolish the letting fee currently charged by real estate agents.</p>	<p>Review of the Residential Tenancies Act 1987 (Act).</p>	<p>Satisfactory</p> <p>Monitoring Committee Comment <i>The Department of Consumer and Employment Protection (DOCEP) advise the Residential Tenancies Act is currently under review. Issues relating to letting fees are being considered in conjunction with the analysis of the review report's recommendations and the subsequent public consultations.</i></p>
<p>1.4.7 Ensure security of tenure for long term tenants in caravan parks and boarding/lodging houses by investigating the merits of legislating to protect the tenure of long term residents in caravan parks, lodging and boarding houses.</p>	<p>Review of the Residential Tenancies Act 1987</p>	<p>Satisfactory</p> <p>Monitoring Committee Comment <i>DOCEP advise these issues were raised as part of the review of the Residential Tenancies Act 1987.</i></p> <p><i>The Minister for Consumer and Employment Protection announced in August 2003 that legislation to provide more certainty to the long term residents of caravan parks would be advanced. Widespread consultation is being undertaken with a view to developing legislation for introduction into Parliament in 2004.</i></p> <p><i>The protection of boarders and lodgers will be further investigated as part of the review of the RTA.</i></p>

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1.5 Addressing income support issues		
<p>1.5.1 The State to negotiate with the Commonwealth to increase income support for all people to eliminate the discrepancies between pensions and allowances.</p>	<p>The Department of the Premier and Cabinet is engaged in discussions through the Council of Australian Governments.</p> <p>Through the Community Services Ministers Advisory Council, there are ongoing discussions with other states, Territories and the Commonwealth. A recent development has been the establishment of a Working Group to examine the impact of the Commonwealth Strategy Australians Working Together. DCD will raise these issues in these forums and directly with the Commonwealth Minister for Family and Community Services.</p>	<p>Mixed</p> <p>Monitoring Committee Comment <i>WA Government officers have raised these issues at a local and national level, and through Departmental and Ministerial Advisory Committee channels. However the response from the Australian Government has not met stakeholders hopes.</i></p>
<p>1.5.2 The State to negotiate with the Commonwealth to have the level of income support paid to a young person living independently raised to the adult level.</p>	<p>As for 1.5.1.</p>	<p>Mixed</p> <p>Monitoring Committee Comment <i>As per 1.5.1</i></p>
<p>1.5.3 The State to ask the Commonwealth to urgently address the negative impact of the practice of 'breaching' on creating homelessness.</p>	<p>The State Government will use the current mechanisms for Commonwealth State discussions to raise issues where vulnerable people are put at housing risk due to income support penalties.</p>	<p>Mixed</p> <p>Monitoring Committee Comment <i>DCD has raised and will continue to raise this issue with the Australian Government.</i></p> <p><i>Centrelink have developed a Breaching Decision Improvement Plan to develop and test changes to the breaching policy.</i></p>

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2 ACCESS TO SUPPORT SERVICES		
2.1 Support and Advocacy to prevent homelessness		
<p>2.1.1 All existing services providing support and advocacy to continue including the Supported Housing Assistance Program, Tenants Advice Services, Financial counselling.</p>	<p>The Government recognises that across-Government responses are essential in this area, as people's needs do not fit into one portfolio area.</p>	<p>Satisfactory</p> <p>Monitoring Committee Comment <i>Funding for these services has been continued. In addition, the Government has provided additional funding to DHW's Supported Housing Assistance Program (SHAP) and for additional Financial Counselling services. See Items 2.1.2 and 2.1.7 below for more details.</i></p>
<p>2.1.2 Implement new Support and Advocacy Services for people in social and private rental.</p>	<p>\$1 million in the first year rising to \$2 million annually to boost assistance to private and public sector tenants to help keep them housed. New Department for Community Development (DCD) program and DHW's Supported Housing Assistance Program.</p>	<p>Satisfactory</p> <p>Monitoring Committee Comment <i>DCD has established nine new services: five metropolitan; three in the regional areas of Peel, Busselton and Geraldton; and a multicultural service.</i></p> <p><i>DHW has implemented a range of new Supported Housing Assistance Program (SHAP) and related services around the state. In addition to increasing the capacity of existing SHAP services in the metropolitan area, Narrogin and Esperance, expressions of Interest have been called to provide SHAP services in Derby and Northam.</i></p>

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<p>2.1.3 Develop practical in home support services to assist people in gaining the skills to manage in a home. These services to be developed with the Aboriginal communities and migrant communities where appropriate.</p>	<p>\$150 000 through the Government's Family Strength program is committed for the development of two services for Indigenous families.</p>	<p>Satisfactory</p> <p>Monitoring Committee Comment <i>DCD has funded two new services for Indigenous people, in Carnarvon and Kwinana.</i></p> <p><i>See also item 2.1..2</i></p>
<p>2.1.4 Develop a garden maintenance program available to people in public housing, payment through rental payments.</p>	<p>DoJ and DHW will investigate the feasibility of developing a service provided by people on community based offender orders to people in public housing.</p> <p>DHW will also investigate the feasibility of working with the Commonwealth to develop Work for Dole initiatives in this area.</p> <p>DOJ is investigating work opportunities with community housing associations.</p>	<p>Satisfactory</p> <p>Monitoring Committee Comment <i>DoJ and DHW have commenced pilot schemes at the Brownlie Towers complex in Bentley, and in Albany, Bunbury and in Geraldton. The Geraldton scheme includes garden maintenance at seniors' complexes.</i></p>

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<p>2.1.5 Increase the Community Drug Teams ability to provide immediate support to people in supported accommodation services, in lodging/boarded houses and where the people are staying.</p>	<p>Two youth SAAP services have funds for a drug support worker – 3 more will be funded through additional \$150,000 provided in response to the Drug Summit.</p> <p>A further drug support worker will be funded through the Drug and Alcohol office.</p>	<p>Satisfactory</p> <p>Monitoring Committee Comment <i>The Department of Health's (DoH) Drug and Alcohol Office (DAO) have now funded six youth crisis accommodation services in the metropolitan area to employ a dedicated drug support worker to work with clients and their families.</i></p>
<p>2.1.6 Increase the level of immediate clinical support for people with mental illness in all areas by increasing the capacity of the local Mental Health Teams to meet the demand of people in need.</p>	<p>\$500 000 in 2002/03 rising to \$800 000 to establish a new south metro service for vulnerable youth with mental health problems.</p>	<p>Funding Temporarily Deferred</p> <p>Monitoring Committee Response <i>In August 2003 the Minister for Health, in response to pressures on the Department of Health's budget, deferred funding for all new DoH State Homelessness Strategy initiatives. As a result initiative 2.1.6 was postponed. Planning has been completed and DoH will be ready to implement these initiatives within a short time of funding being reinstated.</i></p>

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<p>2.1.7 Increase the amount of financial counselling available to people at risk of homelessness.</p>	<p>The Government will provide an additional \$500 000 annually to increase the capacity of financial counselling services.</p>	<p>Satisfactory</p> <p>Monitoring Committee Comment <i>DCD and DOCEP advise this initiative has been fully implemented resulting in 52 existing Financial Counselling services around the state receiving a 15% increase in funding and two new services for young people established.</i></p>
<p>2.1.8 Develop a system to monitor evictions due to anti social behaviour to identify where they have been racially motivated.</p>	<p>This recommendation will be referred to the Office of Citizenship and Multicultural Interests for their consideration in developing the strategy.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Unsatisfactory</p> <p>Monitoring Committee Response <i>The Government is actively pursuing an anti-racist strategy.</i></p> <p><i>The Equal Opportunity Commission has instigated an investigation into public housing provision to Aboriginal people in WA. The final report may include findings where anti social behaviour and racism have been the factors behind evictions.</i></p> <p><i>DHW records data on evictions and establishes where tenants have been evicted for anti-social behaviour.</i></p> <p><i>The Office of Multicultural Interests will refer the issue of housing and racism to the Anti Racism Steering Committee for consideration as part of the anti-racism strategy.</i></p>

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<p>2.1.9 Develop living skills as part of the course for students at risk. The Curriculum Council in consultation with the Youth Affairs Council of WA, develop an appropriate curriculum on living skills for students at risk.</p>	<p>The development of appropriate curriculum will involve stakeholders including the DoE and YACWA. DoE would then deliver this through a range of strategies including virtual learning and alternative programs.</p>	<p><i>Work Scheduled to commence 2004</i></p> <p><i>Monitoring Committee Comment</i> <i>The Curriculum Council has scheduled the development of the living-skills materials for 2004-2005. Trialing will then occur from 2005-2007 with the materials available for implementation from 2007 onwards. Both the Department of Education and Training and the Youth Affairs Council of WA will be part of the consultation process.</i></p>

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2.2 Leaving institutional and long term care		
<p>2.2.1 The Department for Community Development develops leaving care strategies for young people which include the development of independent living options and the development of living skills to manage.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Additional \$600 000 per year to support this group through the transition from State care to independent living. 2. New legislation to place child protection and community development into the contemporary environment. 3. The Government is working with the Commonwealth Government and other jurisdictions to implement the new <i>Transition to Independent Living Allowance (TILA)</i>. 	<p>Satisfactory</p> <p>Monitoring Committee Comment <i>DCD advises:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Three new "Preparation For Leaving And Aftercare" services have been established. They have state wide coverage and can support around 120 young people at a time aged from 14 to 25 as they move from the care of the Department to independent living.</i> 2. <i>The Children and Community Development Bill was tabled in Parliament in December 2003.</i> 3. <i>An agreement has been reached between the Australian Government and the leaving care Services to administer the distribution of TILA funds.</i>

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<p>2.2.2 The Department for Community Development ensures that case planning involving families where children are at risk, includes strategies designed to assist people in developing skills to manage in independent long term accommodation.</p>	<p>DCD will develop strategies to provide training opportunities to departmental and non-Government workers to address homelessness issues.</p>	<p>Satisfactory</p> <p>Monitoring Committee Comment <i>The DCD Community Skills Training Centre (CSTC) has developed a training package for DCD staff in using the SAAP Protocols to work collaboratively with other agencies to obtain the best outcomes for homeless clients.</i></p> <p><i>Workers in all DCD funded non-Government agencies have access to CSTC SAAP training on working with homeless people.</i></p>
<p>2.2.3 Department of Health promotes and implements responsible discharge planning where people leave hospital care to long term stable accommodation, not being referred into immediate access crisis accommodation.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. By June 2003, public mental health services throughout Western Australia are required to have a confirmed date set to review their compliance with <i>National Standards for Mental Health Service</i> standards. 2. The Government will provide \$160,000 in 2002/03 rising to \$260,000 pa to enable people leaving temporary and emergency non-Government services to receive active assistance and rehabilitation to enable them to remain in long-term accommodation. 	<p>Mixed</p> <p>Monitoring Committee Comment</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>This task is being progressed and is on target.</i> 2. <i>In August 2003 the Minister for Health, in response to pressures on the Department of Health's budget, deferred funding for all new DoH State Homelessness Strategy initiatives. Therefore initiative 2.2.3 was postponed. The Department of Health has progressed with a survey to identify the number of homeless people with a mental illness and to determine their support needs and will be ready to implement this initiative within a short time of funding being reinstated.</i>

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<p>2.2.4 The Department of Justice develops strategies to enhance release planning for people leaving prison with longer sentences.</p>	<p>DoJ has recently introduced the case management of prisoners. This process helps to prepare offenders for their release. No offenders are released on parole (or Work Release or Home Detention) without suitable and stable accommodation to go to.</p>	<p>Satisfactory</p> <p>Monitoring Committee Comment <i>DoJ advise re-entry co-ordination services for offenders leaving detention will begin in early 2004 in the metropolitan area, the Kimberley, Mid West, Eastern Goldfields, and the Pilbara.</i></p>
<p>2.2.5 The Department of Justice provide more supported accommodation for prisoners leaving gaol and detention. This would require additional resources to provide to community organisations providing such services.</p>	<p>The Government supports initiatives designed to assist ex-prisoners in stabilising their lifestyle as soon as possible after release and will provide \$340 000 annually to provide more supported accommodation for adult prisoners and young offender prisoners exiting the justice system. This decreases the risk of homelessness and re-offending.</p> <p>DoJ and DHW will work together to develop improved processes to assist prisoners accessing housing on release from prison. DHW will provide additional accommodation that is dedicated to the needs of these people.</p> <p>A service model has been developed jointly with the DHW for a pilot project.</p>	<p>Satisfactory</p> <p>Monitoring Committee Comment <i>DoJ advise new services are gradually being implemented to provide short term supported accommodation to offenders leaving detention. DHW will provide 33 dwellings across the metropolitan area, Albany, Katanning, Bunbury, Busselton, and Geraldton for this purpose.</i></p>

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2.3 Long term accommodation with support		
<p>2.3.1 The Disability Services Commission provides more support for people in long term supported accommodation</p>	<p>The Government allocated an additional \$2.67 million in 2001/02 and in 2002/03 will provide further growth funds of \$3.125 million. This will be allocated as part of the Disability Services Commission (DSC) Combined Applications Process and should meet the recommended resourcing levels. The Government is renegotiating the Commonwealth State Disability Agreement.</p>	<p>Satisfactory</p> <p>Monitoring Committee Comment <i>This commitment has been achieved. The Disability Services Commission (DSC) has committed all funds and has offered accommodation support services to 92 people in 2002/03, which includes the 75 additional places funded in the last budget. So far 99 people have been assisted in 2003/04.</i></p>
<p>2.3.2 Increase the number of beds available to the frail aged who are unable to return home or to their previous accommodation by negotiating an increase in frail aged care beds by the Commonwealth Government.</p>	<p>The Premier is vigorously pursuing the Commonwealth Government on this issue because it needs urgent action. The Government has committed \$21 million to commission up to 150 aged care beds plus \$3 million capital for interim aged care facilities for Care Awaiting Placement Program purposes over the next four years.</p>	<p>Satisfactory</p> <p>Monitoring Committee Comment <i>The Prime Minister has agreed that ageing issues will be considered by the Commission on Australian Government (COAG). Ageing issues will become a standing item.</i></p> <p><i>The State Government is seeking a greater commitment from the Australian Government to address the aged care bed shortage in WA.</i></p> <p><i>Transitional Care Pilots were developed to provide finite term residential care with a rehabilitative focus.</i></p>

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<p>2.3.3 Increase the aged care options available to Indigenous aged people living in remote communities and regional areas. Establish joint programs including the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission, Housing and Works and Commonwealth Aged Care to develop safe supported housing particularly for elderly Indigenous people within their communities.</p>	<p>Home and Community Care Program services were expanded by \$9.5 million in 2001/02. Services specifically for Indigenous people were among those expanded through this additional funding. These services are located in Mt Barker, Albany, Jigalong, the Western Desert and the Kimberley.</p>	<p>Satisfactory</p> <p>Monitoring Committee Comment <i>DoH advise \$10.35 million additional funding was allocated through the Home and Community Care (HACC) Program in 2002/03. This included funding for Indigenous aged people living in Albany, Kalgoorlie/Boulder, the Kimberley and Pilbara regions.</i></p> <p><i>Community consultations have been undertaken in all regions to identify service gaps for funding in 2003/04.</i></p>
<p>2.3.4 & 2.3.6 Increase the number of small scale supported accommodation options for people with mental illness and/or acquired brain injury.</p> <p>Develop more independent living accommodation options which have appropriate stock and appropriate support services available to people with mental illness and/or acquired brain injury.</p>	<p>DoH’s commitment to a range of supported accommodation services is articulated in the policy <i>Supported Community Living for People with Psychiatric Disability – Living in the Community</i>. This policy indicates the philosophy and future directions for the supported community living program for Western Australians with a mental illness.</p> <p>Supported community living services will be expanded through the provision of an additional \$4.0 million over four years.</p> <p>In addition, \$2.6 million will expand support services for families throughout the State over four years. DHW currently provides a minimum of 120 units per annum under its <i>Community Disability Housing Program</i>.</p>	<p>Satisfactory</p> <p>Monitoring Committee Comment <i>DoH advise \$1million per annum has been allocated for the next four years to assist people with mental illness to relocate from the institutional care environment of the Murchison Ward of Graylands Hospital into supported housing accommodation in the community.</i></p> <p><i>The project is entering the second year of a 4 year project and it is projected that most people will move in the fourth year. Planning has identified the service model and specific accommodation required.</i></p> <p><i>Support to carers has been increased by \$650,000 per annum state wide.</i></p>

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<p>2.3.5 Reduce the possibility of homelessness for all newly arrived migrants and refugees regardless of their visa status through negotiation with the Commonwealth to minimise overcrowding caused by people unable to obtain appropriate housing.</p>	<p>Commonwealth has primary responsibility in the area of settlement services. People on Temporary Protection Visas are able to access bond assistance to assist them in moving into housing in the private rental market through DHW. They are eligible to register their interest on the public housing waiting list.</p> <p>DCD is directly involved in the provision of services to unaccompanied refugee minors and is currently renegotiating a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Australian Government Department of Immigration Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs (DIMIA).</p> <p>SAAP funds a number of services for migrant and refugee people who are homeless.</p>	<p>Satisfactory</p> <p>Monitoring Committee Comment <i>DCD advise the new Accommodation Assistance Service (see 2.4.2.1) and the new Private Rental Support and Advocacy Program (see 2.1.2) which includes a new Support and Advocacy Service for Migrants in Private Rental Accommodation will be available to assist newly arrived migrants.</i></p> <p><i>DCD continues to provide services to unaccompanied refugee minors living in the community.</i></p>
<p>2.3.7 Increase the availability of long term supported housing for young people.</p>	<p>The Government recognises some young people need ongoing supported accommodation. DCD is investigating methods to increase the numbers and types of services available. In particular the Department is keen to provide additional services designed to assist families in managing and to avoid children and young people being placed in care or young people forced to move out of home. The Department will continue to pursue strategies to reduce the numbers of children and young people moving into care.</p>	<p>Satisfactory</p> <p>Monitoring Committee Comment <i>DCD and DHW work closely to identify and support families at risk of losing accommodation.</i></p> <p><i>The new DCD funded Preparation for Leaving and Aftercare Services (2.2.1) will support young people in transition up to the age of 25 years including assistance to find long term accommodation if required.</i></p>

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<p>2.3.8 Department of Health and the Department of Justice implement headleasing arrangements in the private rental sector as a way of providing long term accommodation for people with mental illness and people leaving prisons.</p>	<p>DoJ is investigating options with DHW for achieving better accommodation options for people leaving prison.</p> <p>The Departments of Health, Justice and Housing and Works will work together to develop flexible ways of providing accommodation and support for people in the private rental sector.</p>	<p>Satisfactory</p> <p>Monitoring Committee Comment <i>DoJ, DHW, and DoH have established an ongoing interdepartmental working group to develop post release strategies for housing and support for:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Prisoners</i> • <i>Prisoners with a diagnosed mental illness.</i> <p><i>DoJ is developing an information kit for prisoners detailing all available accommodation options.</i></p>

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2.4 Support for people who are homeless		
2.4.1 Emergency supported accommodation		
<p>2.4.1.1 Review policies and practices – to identify ways to progressively implement changes to improve the service system.</p>	<p>The Department for Community Development (DCD), the Department of Health (DoH) and the Department of Justice (DoJ) will work together to facilitate this process.</p>	<p>Satisfactory</p> <p>Monitoring Committee Comment <i>A number of across Government projects have been implemented with this aim. For example:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The SAAP Protocols Project has seen service delivery protocols developed between several Government Departments to assist in the better delivery of services to homeless people assisted through SAAP.</i> • <i>The Strong Families Program involves a range of Government Departments working together to provide coordinated services to at risk families.</i> • <i>DoH is conducting a research project to determine the accommodation support needs of homeless people with mental health conditions.</i> • <i>DHW has established a working group to develop models to address homelessness among Indigenous people in the inner city (see 2.4.1.2 and 2.4.2.3 below). The working party includes membership from a range of Government agencies.</i>

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<p>2.4.1.2 Work on joint ventures involving Aboriginal Hostels Ltd, Department of Housing and Works, Department of Indigenous Affairs, private sector hotel, motel, caravan park operators to develop short term housing options for Indigenous people visiting towns and cities.</p>	<p>DHW and ATSIC are currently addressing the issue of rough sleepers in the inner city who require supported hostel type accommodation. A proposal to develop an Aboriginal hostel in East Perth is being explored jointly by DHW and Aboriginal Hostels Ltd.</p>	<p>Unsatisfactory</p> <p>Monitoring Committee Response <i>No funding was provided for this work.</i></p> <p><i>A working group has been formed to address this strategy. It will consider a draft model developed by DHW, which provides several options to address primary Indigenous homelessness.</i></p>
<p>2.4.1.3 An increase in youth accommodation services in regional areas has been identified. Cost \$150,000 for this service.</p>	<p>DCD has \$2 million over four years to increase supported accommodation services for young people - Fremantle youth crisis service - \$350 000 pa and \$150,000 pa for a youth accommodation service in Broome.</p>	<p>Satisfactory</p> <p>Monitoring Committee Comment <i>DCD have funded a new youth crisis accommodation service which opened in Spearwood in January 2003 and a new youth accommodation service will open in Broome later in 2004.</i></p>
<p>2.4.1.4 Develop increased access to supported accommodation and appropriate support services for men after an incident of family violence.</p>	<p>DCD is providing \$350,000 pa for this service and DHW will provide accommodation under the Crisis Accommodation Program.</p>	<p>Satisfactory</p> <p>Monitoring Committee Comment <i>The DCD funded "Breathing Space" service, located in Calista, opened in May 2003.</i></p>

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2.4.2 Developing services that assist people into long term accommodation with support		
2.4.2.1 The development of a bypass service as a joint Department for Community Development and Department of Housing and Works initiative, with the support service being provided by a non-Government organisation.	\$250,000 pa has been provided for a new support service to be established in Perth to fast track people who are newly homeless or about to become homeless into alternative accommodation.	Satisfactory Monitoring Committee Comment <i>DCD advise Wesley Homelink opened in June 2003 and assists people who are experiencing a temporary housing crisis into long term accommodation, bypassing the crisis accommodation system.</i>
2.4.2.2 Continue the Homeless Helpline as part of the service system.	The Helpline is being redeveloped by DHW to continue to provide the link between DHW, private sector housing and the supported and emergency housing sector to improve the response to the homeless with a major focus on rough sleepers.	Satisfactory Monitoring Committee Comment <i>The Homeless Help Line has been formally incorporated into the DHW structure.</i>
2.4.2.3 Develop a demonstration project to include adequate facilities such as ablution blocks with showers, cooking facilities, and shelter.	The City of Perth and the Town of Port Hedland have expressed an interest in trialing such projects. The City proposal will be referred to the Indigenous Affairs Northbridge Priority Project Working Group to determine whether such a facility can contribute to addressing the complex issues surrounding Aboriginal people in the inner city. The Department of Indigenous Affairs (DIA) will assist in negotiating with ATSIC to investigate funding and support for these options. The Kalgoorlie Boulder City Council has established a similar project in Yarri Road Camp. DIA will continue to monitor such activity.	Unsatisfactory Monitoring Committee Response <i>No funding was provided for this work.</i> <u>Along with initiatives 2.4.1.2 and 2.4.2.4 this initiative has proven difficult to advance.</u> <i>DHW has taken on the lead agency role for addressing this strategy. A working group has been formed to address this strategy. It will consider a draft model developed by DHW, which provides several options. .</i>

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<p>2.4.2.4 Develop an action research project initially focussing on people who have been banned from services and who may be unable to secure any support services. The project would work intensively with people assisting them into accommodation and documenting effective interventions.</p>	<p>DCD will work with WACOSS and the Lotteries Commission to secure funding for this important development.</p>	<p>Unsatisfactory</p> <p>Monitoring Committee Comment The Supported Accommodation Assistance Program (SAAP) State Advisory Committee has established a working party to investigate exclusion practice in SAAP services.</p>
<p>2.4.2.5 The development of campus accommodation as an option for school students to enable them to have the stability to complete their schooling. Joint ventures with the Department of Education supplying a portion of the school grounds as land for the development.</p> <p>The Department of Housing and Works building appropriate one and two bedroom units and local youth services providing minimal support. Begin with a demonstration project to assess viability.</p>	<p>Cyril Jackson Senior Campus has commenced planning in partnership with DHW, DoE and the Eastern Metropolitan Community Housing Association Inc. Under this arrangement DoE would provide the land, DHW would provide the buildings and EMCHA would provide property and tenancy management.</p>	<p>Satisfactory</p> <p>Monitoring Committee Comment DHW advise this project is underway with construction of 7 x 1 and 3 x 2 bedroom units of accommodation for homeless students at the Cyril Jackson High School in Ashfield due to commence early 2004.</p>

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2.4.3 Specialist services to assist people who are homeless		
<p>2.4.3.1 Provide additional sobering up shelters for Indigenous people in Perth City and other regional areas where such services are not available.</p>	<p>The State has earmarked funding for proposed initiatives in the alcohol and substance misuse area next financial year, including sobering up shelters. This will complement the \$350 000 pa earmarked by the Commonwealth for sobering up shelters for the next five years. The Government will also work with ATSIC about a specific proposal for a sobering-up shelter in inner city Perth.</p>	<p>Satisfactory</p> <p>Monitoring Committee Comment <i>DoH advise new Sobering Up Centres have been opened in Northbridge, Wyndham, and Geraldton, and a new centre is planned for Carnarvon in 2005/06.</i></p>
<p>2.4.3.2 Increase in services working with the children of people who are homeless as a result of domestic violence and other crises.</p>	<p>The Government has allocated additional \$100,000 per year for initiatives to support children accompanying their mothers into women's refuges. This funding has been allocated to Yorgum to assist Indigenous children who have been affected by family violence. DCD is progressively seeking to establish:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Additional services in the country to work with children in women's refuges – \$225 000 in the first year rising to \$450 000 per year. 2. Two support services at \$200 000 annually from July 2003 to work with dependent children in family supported accommodation services in the metropolitan area. 3. One support service at \$200 000 annually from January 2003 for young parents focussing on parenting and the needs of their children where the parent/s are living in youth supported accommodation services in the metropolitan area. 	<p>Satisfactory</p> <p>Monitoring Committee Comment <i>DCD advise twenty four services have received funding under this initiative:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Seventeen women's refuges in country towns have received \$25,000 pa to provide programs for children who have witnessed Domestic Violence.</i> 2. <i>Two new services to provide programs for children from homeless families will commence in 2004.</i> 3. <i>Five services, which accommodate young homeless parents, have shared \$200,000 pa in funding to provide parenting support.</i>

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<p>2.4.3.3 Expand the Street Doctor service.</p>	<p>The Street Doctor pilot has been extended until 30 June 2002 under the Innovative Health Services for Homeless Youth (IHSY) Program and is expected to continue at an annual funding level of \$90,000. Expanded services will be planned.</p>	<p><i>Concern about funding issues</i></p> <p><i>Monitoring Committee Comment</i> <i>The funding issues for the Street Doctor service have now been resolved.</i></p> <p><i>The DoH will fund Freo Street Doctor at \$70,000 per annum, and will also continue to fund the Perth Street Doctor/Mobile Access Centre service at an annual funding level of \$150,000.</i></p>
<p>2.4.3.4 Investigate current day centres provided by local authorities for aged and disabled people for their applicability to a broader social group.</p>	<p>The Home and Community Care Program funds local government authorities to provide day centres. The aim of these day centres is to provide respite for carers for the frail aged and younger disabled people. Frail aged and disabled people, including homeless people, are eligible to attend these day centres.</p> <p>People assessed as having a functional physical disability making it difficult for them to perform the tasks of daily living are eligible for services provided by the HACC program.</p>	<p><i>The Government did not make any commitment in regard to this recommendation</i></p>

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2.4.4 Support for People who are Moving from Homelessness into Accommodation		
<p>2.4.4.1 People have access to white goods; furniture and other household goods are available. Implement the Furniture bank project and other initiatives whereby people can receive furnishings etc by way of no interest loans and other options.</p>	<p>DCD will liaise with WACOSS and the Lotteries Commission to encourage the establishment of the Furniture Bank project.</p> <p>DCD will continue to fund the WA No Interest Loans Network to provide interest-free loans for people who need furniture and whitegoods.</p>	<p>Satisfactory</p> <p>Monitoring Committee Comment <i>DCD is continuing to fund the No Interest Loans Scheme (NILS) through the Western Australian NILS Network.</i></p> <p><i>Preliminary discussions have been held between DCD, WACOSS and the Lotteries Commission about establishing a pool of funds for a Furniture Bank for low-income people to access inexpensive and second hand furniture. However further work is required.</i></p>

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<p>2.4.4.2 50% bad debt discount scheme implemented to ensure connection of essential services where a person is moving from homelessness into accommodation.</p>	<p>Western Power, AlintaGas and the Water Corporation already provide customers who are having difficulty in paying current bills with flexible payment options. For example, bills can be paid off in weekly, fortnightly or monthly instalments depending on the financial situation of the customer.</p> <p>Western Power contributes \$30 000 annually to an emergency relief fund administered by WACOSS to help people in financial difficulties, such as being unable to pay their electricity bill. An informal arrangement between Western Power and the DHW Homeless Helpline is already in place for assisting people into emergency housing.</p> <p>Utilities that are Government owned are expected to operate under commercial principles. Any debt discount scheme would have to be implemented as a community service obligation. Furthermore, not all utilities are Government owned. AlintaGas has been privatised and, with the planned introduction of full retail contestability in the gas market, additional non-Government retailers are expected to enter the market. Extension of this form of contestability to the electricity market is being considered. The Office of Energy proposes that a debt discount scheme would need to be funded by Government and made available to customers of all utility service providers.</p>	<p><i>The Government did not make any commitment in regard to this recommendation</i></p> <p><i>Monitoring Committee Comment</i> <i>Western Power has increased its contribution to the Power Assist program from \$30,000 pa to \$50,000 pa. These funds are distributed to community agencies to provide debt relief of up to \$100 per customer to assist existing customers who have been disconnected or are about to be disconnected.</i></p> <p><i>Western Power also has an informal arrangement with the Homeless Helpline to assist previously homeless people to have power connected speedily to their new accommodation. Assistance is considered on a case by case basis, however arrangements are still required for the repayment of past debts.</i></p> <p><i>The Homeless Helpline and Department for Community Development encourage clients to contact Centrelink to access their Centrepay service for the payment of rent and utilities.</i></p>

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3 ENHANCING IMPLEMENTATION		
3.1 Establish Implementation Committee		
3.1.1 Establish implementation Committee responsible to the Cabinet Standing Committee on Social Policy.	The Government will establish a community and Government committee to monitor the implementation of these initiatives.	<p>Satisfactory</p> <p>Monitoring Committee Comment <i>A State Homelessness Strategy Monitoring Committee was established shortly after the Government Response to the Report was published. For details of the membership and Terms of Reference go to www.homeless.dhw.wa.gov.au The committee has met its terms of reference.</i></p> <p><i>To facilitate openness and transparency in the implementation of the Strategy, the committee places quarterly updates on the progress of the implementation on the homeless web site.</i></p>
3.1.2 Ensure that there are structural links between the Implementation Committee and the Indigenous Affairs Advisory Committee to ensure that strategies to enable the mapping of need and responses within Indigenous communities are integral to implementation.	DIA will ensure that all relevant business arising in the Homelessness Monitoring Committee is readily available to the Indigenous Affairs Advisory Committee.	<p>Satisfactory</p> <p>Monitoring Committee Comment <i>The Department of Indigenous Affairs is included and consulted regarding State Homelessness Strategy initiatives wherever appropriate. For example DIA are members of the DHW working group established to progress initiatives 2.4.1.2 and 2.4.2.3.</i></p>

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3.2 Legislation		
<p>3.2.1 Investigate the merit of drafting legislation to ensure accommodation and support services for people who are homeless.</p>	<p>The Government will be investigating the merits of legislation in addressing issues of social inclusion including issues of homelessness.</p>	<p>Satisfactory</p> <p>Monitoring Committee Comment <i>Officers from Department of Housing and Works (DHW) and Department for Community Development (DCD) met and agreed that better links needed to be established between relevant existing Australian Government/State agreements. This was considered during the review of the Commonwealth/State Housing Agreement (CSHA).</i></p> <p><i>DCD advises the Supported Accommodation Assistance Program (SAAP) National Co-ordination and Development Committee is investigating “International and National Trends in Homelessness” which is examining policy and legislation approaches. The final report is nearing completion.</i></p> <p><i>A new section in the 2003 CSHA requires the Australian Government, States and Territories to strengthen the links between housing and services with the aim of improving housing outcomes for people in most need. This includes “positively influencing other Australian Government State agreements” and mentions the CSTDA, SAAP, Home and Community Care Program and the Australian Health Care Agreements.</i></p>

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3.3 Community Education		
3.3.1 Develop an information strategy to encourage debate and discussion on issues around homelessness.	With WACOSS and the community, the Government will continue to ensure a high level of public debate and discussion around issues affecting the most vulnerable people in our community.	<p>Mixed</p> <p>Monitoring Committee Comment <i>Although there has been some activities aimed at raising public awareness about the issue of homelessness, the monitoring committee acknowledges there is room for more work in this area.</i></p> <p><i>Early discussions were held with WACOSS around ways of promoting debate and discussion and these will be further progressed in 2004.</i></p>

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3.4 Working Together		
<p>3.4.1 State Government agencies develop better ways of collecting data on people who are homeless.</p>	<p>All State and Territory Governments are supporting the work of analysing the 2001 Census focusing on homelessness. This information will assist Government agencies in developing better ways of understanding the number of people they work with who are homeless. Western Australian Government agencies will be cognisant of the need to include indicators of homelessness when redeveloping current client data collection methods.</p>	<p>Satisfactory</p> <p>Monitoring Committee Comment <i>Several reports have been produced which outline the scale of homelessness for different populations in Western Australia.</i></p> <p><i>The national Counting the Homeless 2001 report was released in November 2003. The Western Australian data will be released shortly.</i></p> <p><i>A Survey is being carried out by the Office of Mental Health to determine the needs of people with a mental illness in emergency accommodation to determine support and service models required to accommodate people in the 38 units allocated by the Department of Housing and Works (DHW). However due to funding constraints within the Health budget the implementation of this project has been postponed.</i></p> <p><i>DHW and DCD are supporting the City of Perth in developing a proposal for funding to undertake a survey of people sleeping rough in the inner city.</i></p>

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<p>3.4.2 Develop a commitment across the Government and community sector to work together in implementing the Action Plan.</p>	<p>The new Homelessness Monitoring Committee will provide the framework for ensuring a shared commitment by the Government and community to this issue.</p> <p>Government agencies will be required to work in partnership and collaborate with the community sector in the implementation of the many new initiatives outlined in this report.</p>	<p>Satisfactory</p> <p>Monitoring Committee Comment <i>The work of the State Homelessness Strategy Monitoring Committee has ensured this commitment has been achieved.</i></p> <p><i>The membership of the committee consists of the Government agencies with the biggest responsibilities for implementing the Strategy, along with WACOSS.</i></p>
<p>3.4.3 Develop a method of centralising funding for new initiatives arising from the Taskforce across Government portfolios.</p>	<p>The Government is keen to develop better ways of funding whole of Government initiatives and will continue to investigate opportunities.</p>	<p>Mixed</p> <p>Monitoring Committee Comment <i>Models of joined-up budgeting are currently being explored in a project being led by the DPC Policy Division. Consideration is being given to developing a range of multi-lateral budget initiatives.</i></p> <p><i>The Government has established the Cabinet Standing Committee on Social Policy, which is now underpinned by the Human Services Directors General Group. Work is being undertaken to harmonise Senior Officers Groups and Regional Committees to enable collaboration and integration of Government initiatives.</i></p>

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<p>3.4.4 Developing flexibility in funding arrangement to enable Government and community agencies to work together.</p>	<p>The Government is committed to the development of more flexibility in funding arrangements for the not-for-profit sector. The Working Party on Funding Agreements with Not-for-profit Organisations has completed and released a consultation report on proposed new arrangements. It is anticipated these new arrangements will come into effect from 1 July 2002. These new arrangements will recognise the partnership between the community and the Government in the provision of services.</p>	<p>Satisfactory</p> <p>Monitoring Committee Comment <i>The Government has implemented the following policies/initiatives to achieve this commitment:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>A government wide policy on Funding and Purchasing Community Services</i> • <i>A standard service agreement for use by all Government departments in contracting community based service provision.</i> • <i>A working party for the development of an industry plan for the non Government human services sector.</i>