

**Progress Report on the Implementation of the Government's Response to the WA State Homelessness Taskforce  
As at October 2002**

No	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>	Implementation Status
<b>1</b>	<b>ACCESS TO APPROPRIATE AND AFFORDABLE ACCOMMODATION</b>		
<b>1.1</b>	<b>State housing strategy to include the development and retention of affordable housing</b>		
1.1.1	Ensure the State Housing Strategy includes proposals for increasing the supply of affordable housing.	<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.	Department of Housing and Works (DHW)  In Progress
1.1.2	Ensure the State Housing Strategy includes a continuum of housing types in all locations to promote community sustainability.	The Housing Strategy will address needs in rural and remote areas as well as metropolitan. It will encourage construction that uses sustainability principles. <i>WACOSS Housing and Sustainable Communities Indicators</i> will be used. The <i>New Living Program</i> will continue.	Department of Housing and Works (DHW)  In Progress
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.	This recommendation will be forwarded to the people working on the development of the State Housing Strategy for their consideration and action.	Department of Housing and Works (DHW)  In Progress

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<b>1.2</b>	<b>Increase Government funding for social housing</b>		
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.	When negotiating the next <i>Commonwealth State Housing Agreement</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.	Department of Housing and Works (DHW)  The <i>Commonwealth State Housing Agreement</i> is currently being negotiated by State Ministers. The new agreement is due for implementation in June 2003.
1.2.2	The Taskforce supports the retention and enhancement of the CHSA with a clear focus on homelessness.	To give certainty to the States on future funding, all parties are seeking to finalise a new Commonwealth State Housing Agreement by July 2002.	Department of Housing and Works (DHW)  The Commonwealth/State Housing Agreement is currently being negotiated by State Ministers.
1.2.3	Injection of Commonwealth funds to maintain and increase current social housing and stock levels.	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.	Department of Housing and Works (DHW)  This is currently being negotiated by State Ministers
1.2.4	Injection of State funds to maintain and increase current social housing stock levels.	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.	Department of Housing and Works (DHW)  The \$5 million for general public housing will provide 60 units for homeless clients through the Homeless Help Line and priority listed applicants in the regions. The special needs funding will provide 65 units. Further information is provided at items 2.2.5 and 2.3.5.

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1.2.5	The State to negotiate with the Commonwealth for an increase in funding for Aboriginal housing.	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>Department of Housing and Works (DHW) Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission (ATSIC)</p> <p>The State Government has signed a Housing and Infrastructure Agreement with the Commonwealth and ATSIC which commits the parties to the pooling of funds to be administered by the AHIU from July 2002 to June 2007.</p> <p>State Treasury has increased its annual funding commitment from \$13.5M per year to \$17M per year for the term of the Agreement.</p>
1.2.6	Local Government to be involved in a three way partnership with State and Commonwealth Government in negotiating CSHA.	The State Government will ask the Commonwealth to invite Local Government to participate in the Commonwealth State Housing Agreement negotiations.	<p>Department of Housing and Works (DHW)</p> <p>The State will propose this strategy at the next meeting of Ministers.</p>
<b>1.3</b>	<b>Broaden opportunities for increasing the amount, durability and type of affordable housing</b>		
1.3.1	Increase the use of durable building materials and fittings in social housing.	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>Department of Housing and Works (DHW)</p> <p>The Department of Housing and Works supports the use of durable building materials. The Department anticipates constructing approximately 75 durable dwellings in 2002/03 and a review of their effectiveness will be undertaken in 2003/04.</p>

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1.3.2	Increase the quality of housing in Indigenous Communities to eliminate 'homelessness in homelands'.	The Government will continue to work towards improving the state of housing in remote Indigenous communities	<p>Department of Housing and Works (DHW)</p> <p>The DHW is a signatory to a code of practice for housing and environmental infrastructure development in Indigenous communities in WA. The DHW is committed to ensuring the requirements of the code are met on an ongoing basis.</p> <p>Under the Housing and Infrastructure Agreement all Indigenous communities serviced by Aboriginal Housing and Infrastructure Unit (AHIU) programs, including town reserves and homeland out-stations, will have housing provided in accordance with the code of practice.</p> <p>See next page for details.</p>

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1.3.2 <i>Cont</i>	<p>The Office of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs and the Department of Housing and Works through the Aboriginal Housing and Infrastructure Unit are signatories to a code of practice for housing and environmental infrastructure development in Aboriginal communities in WA.</p> <p>The code stipulates a commitment to quality standards in Indigenous communities. The situation will be monitored to ensure requirements of the code are met on an ongoing basis. The AHIU Remote Communities Program and Budget for 2001/02 (\$23.94 million) and 2002/03 (\$49.35 million) are as follows:-</p> <p><u>2001/2002</u></p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 80%;">▪ Remote Construction (commence 53 units and complete 36 units).</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ 5.890M</td> </tr> <tr> <td>▪ Remote Area Essential Services Program</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ 7.350M</td> </tr> <tr> <td>▪ Aboriginal Community Strategic Investment Program</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ 4.560M</td> </tr> <tr> <td>▪ TRRP (Town Reserves)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ 0.16</td> </tr> <tr> <td>▪ Other (Management Support / Maintenance)</td> <td style="text-align: right;"><u>\$ 5.990M</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td>TOTAL</td> <td style="text-align: right;"><u>\$23.940M</u></td> </tr> </table> <p><u>2002/2003</u></p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 80%;">▪ Remote Construction (commence 62 units and complete 71 units).</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$10.61M</td> </tr> <tr> <td>▪ ATSI construct &amp; upgrades (35 commence)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$10.790</td> </tr> <tr> <td>▪ Remote Area Essential Services Program.</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ 7.180M</td> </tr> <tr> <td>▪ Aboriginal Community Strategic Investment Program</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ 5.770M</td> </tr> <tr> <td>▪ TRRP</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ 0.740M</td> </tr> <tr> <td>▪ Other</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ 6.250M</td> </tr> <tr> <td>▪ Management Support / Maintenance</td> <td style="text-align: right;"><u>\$ 8.120M</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td>TOTAL</td> <td style="text-align: right;"><u>\$49.350M</u></td> </tr> </table>			▪ Remote Construction (commence 53 units and complete 36 units).	\$ 5.890M	▪ Remote Area Essential Services Program	\$ 7.350M	▪ Aboriginal Community Strategic Investment Program	\$ 4.560M	▪ TRRP (Town Reserves)	\$ 0.16	▪ Other (Management Support / Maintenance)	<u>\$ 5.990M</u>	TOTAL	<u>\$23.940M</u>	▪ Remote Construction (commence 62 units and complete 71 units).	\$10.61M	▪ ATSI construct & upgrades (35 commence)	\$10.790	▪ Remote Area Essential Services Program.	\$ 7.180M	▪ Aboriginal Community Strategic Investment Program	\$ 5.770M	▪ TRRP	\$ 0.740M	▪ Other	\$ 6.250M	▪ Management Support / Maintenance	<u>\$ 8.120M</u>	TOTAL	<u>\$49.350M</u>
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1.3.3	Increasing Aboriginal management to 18% of urban community housing stock.	DHW will encourage an increase in the management of community housing by Indigenous groups by providing infrastructure support and training. CHCWA will be the main vehicle for assisting Indigenous groups to acquire the necessary skills to manage community housing.	Department of Housing and Works (DHW)  Discussions have occurred with the newly formed Noongar Mia Mia Pty Ltd, a housing company established under the auspices of ATSIC, with a view to encouraging and supporting its growth. Noongar Mia Mia has been formed on the basis of becoming a specialist Indigenous housing provider and will be making application this year for both capital and infrastructure funding under the Community Housing Program.
1.3.4	Community Housing reaches a target of 18% of Aboriginal occupancy.	It is proposed to achieve the target figure of 18% over a five-year term with a target of 5% by 30 June 2003.	Department of Housing and Works (DHW)  Currently there is a lack of data available from community housing providers on their tenancy profiles. This will be corrected in the annual community housing survey that will occur over July and August 2002 when housing providers will be asked to identify their tenant profile. Current estimates are that Aboriginal occupancy rates are around 3.4%. A target of 5% has been set for June 30, 2003.

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<b>1.4</b>	<b>Optimise the access and use of existing housing for people low incomes</b>		
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.	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>Department of Housing and Works (DHW)</p> <p>Some preliminary discussions have occurred with the community housing sector and this strategy will be included in the <i>Community Housing Strategic Plan</i> currently being developed. The Community Housing Coalition of WA has also been asked to pursue this during 2002/03 as one of its strategic priorities.</p> <p>Other related strategies being pursued include improving the access of Aboriginal people to community housing properties, encouraging increased financial contributions from non-Government organisations and sharing tenancy allocation rights in these housing projects.</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.	DHW and DCD will develop suitable protocols for the implementation of this recommendation.	<p>Department of Housing and Works (DHW), and Department for Community Development (DCD)</p> <p>Draft protocols have been developed that will enable clients in self-contained crisis accommodation to remain in residence and become a public housing tenant, while the Department then locates an alternate property for use under the Crisis Accommodation Program.</p> <p>There are some recent instances where this strategy has already been put into practice.</p>

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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.	From 1 March 2002, the Government increased the maximum bond loan amounts to better reflect the amount of bond required. Evaluation required.	Department of Housing and Works (DHW) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Bond Assistance loan levels were increased on March 1 2002 to the current market median rent as set in 2000. A review will be carried out 12 months.</li> <li>▪ Ingoing fees (letting fees and rent in advance) are granted on "need only" basis, and are added to the bond loan amount.</li> <li>▪ Since the commencement of the Homeless Help Line, 292 bond loans have been issued to assist people who have approached the Help Line.</li> <li>▪ 110 people have been loaned a mix of rent in advance (\$21,905) and/or letting fee (\$4,510) in addition to bond assistance.</li> </ul>

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1.4.4	Examine options for incentives for private landlords to accommodate people on low incomes.	See Below.	<p>Department of Housing and Works (DHW)</p> <p>Initial discussions have taken place with Perth Management Services, which is contracted to manage surplus Homeswest rental properties, to increase the availability of these dwellings for homeless people capable of living independently.</p> <p>Discussions are taking place with Centrelink to encourage greater participation by clients and real estate agents in Centrelink's <i>Centrepay</i> scheme, which enables private tenants to have their rent deducted from their Centrelink benefit direct to the agent. There is some reluctance by agents to participate in <i>Centrepay</i>, due to the transaction cost of \$1.01 per which the owner or agent must absorb.</p> <p>The Department of Planning and Infrastructure is examining the possibility of creating a rolling schedule of other surplus Government housing for use through the Homeless Help Line.</p>

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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.	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.	Department of Housing and Works (DHW)  The Department of Housing and Works through the Aboriginal Housing and Infrastructure Unit in discussions with REIWA, is continuing to develop this pilot project to enable access to the private rental market by Aboriginal people. At this stage the project has limited support by real estate agents, and further work is needed before commencement can occur or the project can be expanded.
1.4.6	Abolish the letting fee currently charged by real estate agents.	Review of the Residential Tenancies Act 1987 (Act).	Department of Consumer and Employment Protection (DOCEP)  Stamfords Advisors Consultants (Stamfords) are independent consultants who conducted the statutory review of the Act. The Department of Consumer and Employment Protection (DOCEP) received their report on Thursday 22 August 2002.  DOCEP is preparing a briefing for the Minister for Consumer and Employment Protection on the recommendations arising out of that review. The Minister has indicated that once he has had the opportunity to consider the report, he intends to table it in Parliament and release it for public comment.

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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.	Review of the Residential Tenancies Act 1987	Department of Consumer and Employment Protection(DOCEP)  These issues were raised as part of the review of the Residential Tenancies Act 1987.
1.5	<p><b>Addressing income support issues</b></p> <p>As part of their response to the <i>National Homelessness Strategy</i> Centrelink has begun a project to consider how the income support system affects homelessness. Centrelink and the Commonwealth Department of Family and Community Services will be working with Government agencies around the country to identify policy gaps which could impact on homeless people or homelessness.</p> <p>On 15 October 2002 a joint meeting was held with the Centrelink project officer, state Centrelink officers, and officers from DCD, DHW, DoJ, and the Office of Mental Health to consider Western Australian issues. Recommendations 1.5.1 to 1.5.3 below were discussed and the State's position will be relayed to Canberra.</p> <p>As a result of the meeting Centrelink will facilitate a working party to promote local agency co-ordination.</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.	The Department of the Premier and Cabinet is engaged in discussions through the Council of Australian Governments.	Department of the Premier and Cabinet (DPC) and Department for Community Development (DCD)  DCD will continue to raise this issue in the Community Services Ministers Advisory Committee (CSMAC) Welfare Reform Working Group.

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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.	And 1.5.1. 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.	Department of the Premier and Cabinet, (DPC) and Department for Community Development (DCD)  DCD will continue to raise this issue in the Community Services Ministers Advisory Committee (CSMAC) Welfare Reform Working Group.
1.5.3	The State to ask the Commonwealth to urgently address the negative impact of the practice of 'breaching' on creating homelessness.	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.	Department of the Premier and Cabinet, (DPC) and Department for Community Development (DCD)  DCD has raised this issue at meetings with Centrelink staff.  Centrelink have developed a <i>Breaching Decision Improvement Plan</i> to develop and test changes to the breaching policy. Breaches cannot be imposed without contact with the customer. If client fails to contact can use temporary suspension instead to get the client to contact Centrelink and avoid breach.  The Government will continue to monitor this.

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<b>2</b>	<b>ACCESS TO SUPPORT SERVICES</b>		
<b>2.1</b>	<b>Support and Advocacy to prevent homelessness</b>		
2.1.1	All existing services providing support and advocacy to continue including the Supported Housing Assistance Program, Tenants Advice Services, Financial counseling.	The Government recognises that across-Government responses are essential in this area, as people's needs do not fit into one portfolio area.	Department of Housing and Works Department of Consumer and Employment Protection(DOCEP) Department for Community Development (DCD)  All existing Supported Housing Assistance Program (SHAP), Tenants Advice Services and Financial Counseling Services have continued to be funded.  Additional funding has been provided for SHAP and Financial Counselling Services. See 2.1.7. and 2.1.2. for details.

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2.1.2	Implement new Support and Advocacy Services for people in social and private rental.	\$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 DCD Program and DHW's Supported Housing Assistance Program.	<p>Department for Community Development (DCD) Department of Housing and Works (DHW)</p> <p><u>Support for People in Social Housing</u> DHW has the lead role in this initiative. An additional \$0.5 million (recurrent) has been provided for more Supported Housing Assistance Program (SHAP) services in 2002/03, rising to \$1m recurrent from 2003/04, bringing total SHAP funding to \$2.0 million per annum. Expressions of Interest have been sought from existing SHAP providers to increase services.</p> <p><u>Support for People in Private Rental</u> DCD has the lead role with this initiative. New funding of \$0.5 million in 2002/03 rising to \$1m recurrent from 2003/04 has been provided for Support and Advocacy Services for People in Private Rental Accommodation (including those in Regional Community Housing Association properties). Specifications have been developed and locations identified. DCD will advertise for service providers in the near future.</p>

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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.	\$150 000 through the Government's Family Strength program is committed for the development of two services for Indigenous families.	Department for Community Development (DCD)  DCD is working closely with other Government Departments with an interest in Aboriginal housing and has consulted the Local Government Association to develop specifications and identify the most appropriate locations for the new services.
2.1.4	Develop a garden maintenance program available to people in public housing, payment through rental payments.	DoJ and DHW will investigate the feasibility of developing a service provided by people on community based offender orders to people in public housing.  DHW will also investigate the feasibility of working with the Commonwealth to develop Work for Dole initiatives in this area.	Department of Housing and Works (DHW) and Department of Justice (DoJ)  Looking at broader based projects like building maintenance programs, in addition to garden maintenance. Scope to work with community housing associations being investigated. Looking to incorporate skills development mechanism for offenders and reduced maintenance costs as outcomes of project.
2.1.5	Increase the Community Drug Teams ability to provide immediate support to people in supported accommodation services, in lodging/boarding houses and where the people are staying.	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.	Department of Health, Drug and Alcohol Office (DAO)  The new drug and alcohol counsellor has begun working in the Rockingham youth refuge.  Armadale and Fremantle services have been advertised for providers who will then each employ a drug and alcohol counsellor for the refuge.

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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.	\$500 000 in 2002/03 rising to \$800 000 to establish a new south metro service for vulnerable youth with mental health problems.	Department of Health, Office of Mental Health  Discussions have commenced and an in principle agreement has been reached with the South Metro Health Service to develop this new youth service. The service will have a strong focus on working with the Supported Accommodation Assistance Program (SAAP) service sector.
2.1.7	Increase the amount of financial counselling available to people at risk of homelessness.	The Government will provide an additional \$500 000 annually to increase the capacity of financial counselling services	Department for Community Development (DCD) and Department of Consumer and Employment Protection(DOCEP)  \$500,000 per annum is being provided from the Rental Accommodation Fund administered by DOCEP to provide financial counselling services to people at risk of losing their tenancies. These funds are being administered through DCD and used for the following purposes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 52 Financial Counselling services around the state have received a 15% increase in funding to assist families avoid eviction.</li> <li>• Specifications have been developed for two new specialist Financial Counselling Services. Advertising for these services will occur later in 2002.</li> </ul>

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2.1.8	Develop a system to monitor evictions due to anti social behaviour to identify where they have been racially motivated.	This recommendation will be referred to the Office of Citizenship and Multicultural Interests for their consideration in developing the strategy.	Department of the Premier and Cabinet (DPC)  The Equal Opportunity Commission has instigated an investigation into public housing provision to Aboriginal people in WA. The Office of Multicultural Interests has been asked to consider the issue of housing in their anti racism strategy.
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.	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.	Department of Education (DoE)  The Curriculum Council has scheduled the development of the living skills materials for 2004-2005. Trialling will then occur from 2005-2007 with the materials available for implementation from 2007 onwards. Both the Department of Education and the Youth Affairs Council of WA will be part of the consultation process.
<b>2.2</b>	<b>Leaving institutional and long term care</b>		
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.	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> .	Department for Community Development (DCD)  1. Three new leaving care services have been advertised for service providers, covering the majority of the state. 2. Draft legislation has been developed with input from young people in care. 3. The Youth Protocol Working Party is developing guidelines for the allocation of TILA funds. Implementation in March 2003. Non Government agencies that work with young people in care are represented on the working party.

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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.	DCD will develop strategies to provide training opportunities to departmental and non-Government workers to address homelessness issues.	Department for Community Development (DCD)  DCD will establish a working party to develop training options.
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.	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 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.	Department of Health, Office of Mental Health  1. In progress. 2. A survey of the needs of people with a mental illness in emergency accommodation will be undertaken in 2002. A Request for Quotation will be advertised in October. The outcomes of the needs survey will be used to determine support and service models required to accommodate people in the 38 units allocated by DHW.

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2.2.4	The Department of Justice develop strategies to enhance release planning for people leaving prison with longer sentences.	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.	Department of Justice (DoJ)  DoJ will closely manage those prisoners who are on life or indeterminate sentences through pre release programs. Re-entry support services will be developed. They will focus on nine key social exclusions factors such as; housing, employment, education and health, which are important for successful reintegration into the community.
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.	\$340 000 annually to provide more supported accommodation for adult prisoners and young offenders prisoners exiting the justice system.  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.	Department of Justice (DoJ) Department of Housing and Works (DHW)  The first meeting of the interdepartmental working group was held on 31 July 02. Thereafter this group will meet on a monthly basis.  Priority locations and types of accommodation needed have been identified. Various models for provision of housing currently being considered with a view to advertising Request for Proposals for service provision. In addition, information networks and protocols to be improved for prisoners accessing mainstream public accommodation.

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<b>2.3</b>	<b>Long term accommodation with support</b>		
2.3.1	The Disability Services Commission provides more support for people in long term supported accommodation	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 Combined Applications Process and should meet the recommended resourcing levels. The Government is renegotiating the Commonwealth State Disability Agreement.	Disability Services Commission  The Disability Services Commission has allocated \$3.4m for 02/03 an increase of \$.275m on the figure available at the compilation of the report. DSC has a well established process for allocating these funds and tracking the commencement of services. All funds will be committed by March 2003 and will assist 75 people with disabilities into long term supported accommodation.
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.	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.	Department of the Premier and Cabinet (DPC) Department of Health (DoH)  The Prime Minister has agreed that ageing issues will be one of the 'national' issues for consideration by the <i>Commission on Australian Government</i> (COAG) at their November 2002 meeting.  In addition, Transitional Care Pilots are currently being developed in collaboration with the Commonwealth in order to provide finite term residential care with a rehabilitative focus. 50 flexible aged care places have been allocated to this pilot and the contract for this service is in the final negotiation stage. The service is expected to commence operation in November 2002.

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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.	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 Baker, Albany, Jigalong, the Western Desert and the Kimberley.	Department of Health (DoH)  Services are in operation. Additional funding will also be available in 2002/03 that will provide increased services to Indigenous aged people living in remote communities.

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2.3.4 & 2.3.6	<p>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. In addition, \$2.6 million will expand support services for families throughout the State over four years.</p> <p>DHW currently provides a minimum of 120 units per annum under its <i>Community Disability Housing Program</i> and has recently agreed to increase the number for the DSC from 60 to 65.</p>	<p>Department of Health (DoH)</p> <p>The <i>Community Options 100</i> project is developing small scale supported accommodation options for people who are currently unable to live outside a hospital setting.</p> <p>The Department of Housing and Works (DHW) is represented on a committee overseeing the implementation of the <i>Community Options 100</i> program of the Department of Health. \$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.</p> <p>DHW will assist in providing the accommodation once decisions about household profiles and funding allocations have been finalised.</p> <p>Additional properties for the <i>Independent Living Program</i> have been identified. A Request For Quotation will be advertised in October to find suitable non-Government providers to provide the support.</p>

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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>Commonwealth has primary responsibility in the area of settlement services.</p> <p>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 an MOU with DIMIA.</p> <p>SAAP funds a number of services for migrant and refugee people who are homeless.</p>	<p>Department of Housing and Works (DHW) Department for Community Development (DCD)</p> <p>DCD and DHW will continue to work with the private rental sector to improve accessibility of housing for all sections of the community.</p> <p>The new Accommodation Assistance Service (see 2.4.2.1) and the new Support and Advocacy Services for People in Private Rental (see 2.1.2) will be available to assist newly arrived migrants.</p>

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2.3.7	Increase the availability of long term supported housing for young people.	<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.</p> <p>The Department will continue to pursue strategies to reduce the numbers of children and young people moving into care.</p>	<p>Department for Community Development (DCD)</p> <p>DCD has a protocol with DHW to identify and support families at risk of losing accommodation. The guidelines for the <i>Tenants Referral Program</i> have recently been revised and are being piloted in the metropolitan area.</p> <p>\$600,000 pa has been provided to DCD to establish three new Preparation for Leaving and Aftercare Services. See 2.2.1 for details.</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>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>Department of Justice (DoJ) Department of Health (DoH) Department of Housing and Works (DHW)</p> <p>An ongoing interdepartmental working group has been established to progress this recommendation.</p>

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<b>2.4</b>	<b>Support for people who are homeless</b>		
2.4.1	Emergency supported accommodation		
2.4.1.1	Review policies and practices – to identify ways to progressively implement changes to improve the service system.	DCD, DoH and DoJ will work together to facilitate this process.	<p>Department of Justice (DoJ) Department of Health (DoH) Department for Community Development (DCD)</p> <p>DoJ has instigated a major review of services to assist prisoners re-entry to the community upon release.</p> <p>Protocols have been developed between DHW and DCD regarding SAAP services and access to housing. A close relationship exists between the Homeless Helpline and DCD to address individual client issues as they arise. Homeless Helpline staff have been involved in developing specifications for an Accommodation Assistance Service which will assist people in housing crisis to find accommodation and by-pass the SAAP system – 2.4.2.1.</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.	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>Department of Housing and Works (DHW)</p> <p>DHW is continuing to explore options for homeless Aboriginal people.</p> <p>Approval has been given to including on the Goderich Street site, self contained 1b/r units for people who need limited support, using a SHAP service.</p>

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2.4.1.3	An increase in youth accommodation services in regional areas has been identified. Cost \$150,000 for this service.	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.	Department for Community Development (DCD)  The Fremantle youth crisis accommodation service has been advertised and Great Mates was the successful applicant. The service will begin operation in the near future.  Work is progressing to develop a service model for the Broome youth accommodation service. A local agency has received a Commonwealth grant to research the model.
2.4.1.4	Develop increased access to supported accommodation and appropriate support services for men after an incident of family violence.	DCD is providing \$350,000 pa for this service and DHW will provide accommodation under the Crisis Accommodation Program.	Department for Community Development (DCD)  Advertising process is completed. Communicare has been selected to provide the service and signed a Service Agreement on 5 September 2002.
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.	Department for Community Development (DCD)  A Request For Proposal was advertised for this service on 10 August 2002. Service provider expected to be announced by December 2002.

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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.	Department of Housing and Works (DHW)  DHW has formally incorporated the Homeless Help Line into the structure of the Department, ensuring its continuation.
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.	Department of Indigenous Affairs (DIA)  The Northbridge Priority Project Working Group emphasised the need to address the Indigenous youth issues on Friday and Saturday nights in Northbridge as a priority.  The Working Group has also identified the need to address Aboriginal homelessness in inner Perth as its other priority. The NPP will continue to collaborate with Government non-Government and Indigenous agencies over this issue.  The Yarri Road Camp project in Kalgoorlie is generally working well. DIA has identified some areas that require attention.

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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.	DCD will work with WACOSS and the Lotteries Commission to secure funding for this important development.	Department for Community Development (DCD)  Lotteries Commission  Preliminary discussions have been held between Lotteries and DCD.
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. 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.	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.	Department of Housing and Works (DHW) Department of Education (DoE)  The Department of Housing and Works has approved a Joint Venture project with the Eastern Metropolitan Community Housing Association (EMCHA) for 2002/03 to construct 10 x 1 bedroom units for students at the Cyril Jackson High School in Ashfield.  The accommodation will be built on Department of Education land, EMCHA will manage the tenancies and the Bassendean Youth Service will provide support to the students.

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2.4.3	Specialist services to assist people who are homeless		
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.	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>Department of Health, Drug and Alcohol Office</p> <p>There will soon be three sobering up centres servicing the Northbridge area. These are the centre in Wright St managed by the Salvation Army, Anawim, which is a new service for women opening in December 2002, and the On Track service managed by Mission Australia specifically for young people who are intoxicated.</p> <p>A new centre has also recently been opened in Midland and is managed by the Noongar Alcohol and Substance Abuse Service (NASAS).</p>

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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>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"> <li>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.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>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.</li> </ol>	<p>Department for Community Development (DCD)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. On track to have funds to services by 1 January 2003. Variation to service Agreements are being finalised.</li> <li>2. Funds for these services will be available in July 2003. Work will commence later in the year to develop service models.</li> <li>3. On track to have funds to services by 1 January 2003. Work is progressing to develop specifications and model of service.</li> </ol>

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2.4.3.3	Expand the Street Doctor service.	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.	Department of Health (DoH)  The Street Doctor Pilot is continuing.
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.	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 and diversion therapy for the aged and disabled people attending. All aged or disabled people, including homeless people, are eligible to attend these day centres.	Department of Health (DoH) – HACC  Access to Centre Based Day Care will increase for HACC eligible clients during 2002/03 as a result of additional funding provided through the HACC Program.
2.4.4	Support for People who are Moving from Homelessness into Accommodation		
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.	DCD will liaise with WACOSS and the Lotteries Commission to encourage the establishment of the Furniture Bank project.  DCD will continue to fund the WA No Interest Loans Network to provide interest-free loans for people who need furniture and whitegoods.	Department for Community Development (DCD) Lotteries Commission  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.  DCD is continuing to fund the No Interest Loans Scheme (NILS) through the Western Australian NILS Network.

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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.	An informal arrangement between Western Power and the DHW Homeless Helpline is already in place for assisting people into emergency housing. 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.	Department of Housing and Works (DHW)  To date Western Power has reported little demand for this service. DHW will hold further discussions with them regarding whether this option should continue to be available.

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<b>3</b>	<b>ENHANCING IMPLEMENTATION</b>		
<b>3.1</b>	<b>Establish Implementation Committee</b>		
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.	Department of the Premier and Cabinet (DPC)  A State Homelessness Strategy Monitoring Committee has been established. For details of the membership and Terms of Reference go to <a href="http://www.homeless.dhw.wa.gov.au">www.homeless.dhw.wa.gov.au</a>
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.	Department of the Premier and Cabinet (DPC), and Department of Indigenous Affairs (DIA)  The Department of Indigenous Affairs is being kept informed and consulted as appropriate through Ministerial and Departmental channels.
<b>3.2</b>	<b>Legislation</b>		
3.2.1	Investigate the merit of drafting legislation to ensure accommodation and support services for people who are homeless.	The Government will be investigating the merits of legislation in addressing issues of social inclusion including issues of homelessness.	Department of the Premier and Cabinet (DPC)  Currently under consideration by Department of Housing and Works and Department for Community Development.

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<b>3.3</b>	<b>Community Education</b>		
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.	Department of the Premier and Cabinet (DPC)  Government agencies will participate in the following initiatives which will promote public debate on homelessness: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• April 2003 – the Government will present a paper on the State Homelessness Strategy at the National Homelessness Conference.</li> <li>• 17 October 2003 – Homelessness will be the focus of Poverty Day.</li> </ul>
<b>3.4</b>	<b>Working Together</b>		
3.4.1	State Government agencies develop better ways of collecting data on people who are homeless.	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 cognizant of the need to include indicators of homelessness when redeveloping current client data collection methods.	Department for Community Development (DCD)  The first part of census analysis has been completed and a report developed - <i>Youth Homelessness in 2001</i> .  The Department for Community Development will continue to work with the Australian Bureau of Statistics on the issue of the collection of homelessness data.  The collection of data is one consideration being addressed in the work around designing an evaluation framework.

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3.4.2	Develop a commitment across the Government and community sector to work together in implementing the Action Plan.	The new Homelessness Monitoring Committee will provide the framework for ensuring a shared commitment by the Government and community to this issue. 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.	Department for Community Development (DCD)  The Monitoring Committee has been established.  For details of the membership and Terms of Reference go to <a href="http://www.homeless.dhw.wa.gov.au">www.homeless.dhw.wa.gov.au</a>  A working group is developing Performance Indicators and an Evaluation Plan.
3.4.3	Develop a method of centralising funding for new initiatives arising from the Taskforce across Government portfolios.	The Government is keen to develop better ways of funding whole of Government initiatives and will continue to investigate opportunities.	Department of the Premier and Cabinet (DPC)  Examinations of models of joined-up budgeting are currently being explored in a project being led by the DPC Policy Division. This issue has acquired greater urgency as a consequence of the findings of the Gordon Inquiry.

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3.4.4	Developing flexibility in funding arrangement to enable Government and community agencies to work together.	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.	Department of the Premier and Cabinet (DPC)  The recommendations of the Working Party on Funding Agreements with Not-For-Profit Organisations have been adopted by the Government and became operational on 1 November 2002. The detailed policy is on the Department of Premier and Cabinet web site at <a href="http://www.dpc.wa.gov.au/psmd/pubs/psrd/community/fundpurchasepolicy.pdf">www.dpc.wa.gov.au/psmd/pubs/psrd/community/fundpurchasepolicy.pdf</a>