

**Progress Report on the Implementation of the Western Australian State Homelessness Strategy
as at 31 December 2004**

Note: Developments since the previous update (September 2004) are indicated in blue.

No	Recommendation Summary	Summary of Government Commitments For full text see The Government's Response to the Report of the Homelessness Taskforce: 'Putting People First'	Implementation Status
1	ACCESS TO APPROPRIATE AND AFFORDABLE ACCOMMODATION		
1.1	State housing strategy to include the development and retention of affordable housing		
1.1.1	Ensure the State Housing Strategy includes proposals for increasing the supply of affordable housing.	<p><i>Housing Strategy WA</i> will be put to consultation by October 2002.</p> <p>The needs of Indigenous people, CALD and people with disabilities will be given a high priority.</p>	<p>Department of Housing and Works (DHW)</p> <p>The loss in the supply of affordable housing for households in the lower two income quintiles has been identified as a major issue in the development of a <i>Housing Strategy WA</i>. A draft discussion paper was planned to be released for public consultation in early 2005, following approval by Cabinet. However this has been postponed until after the State Government election due to be held in February 2005.</p> <p>In April 2003, Housing Ministers agreed to the development of a National Affordable Housing Project to "promote a national, strategic, integrated and long-term vision for affordable housing in Australia through a comprehensive approach by all levels of government". Housing officials have been working on assessing policy levers that can best be used to increase the supply of affordable housing for people in the lowest 40% of income distribution.</p> <p>A planned meeting of Housing Ministers in December 2004 to consider progress in the development of a draft framework for national action on affordable housing did not occur. However Housing, planning and local government officials will develop three papers: the case for national action, a framework for national action and draft schedules for action. A joint meeting of housing,</p>

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			<p>planning and local government ministers will consider the framework in 2005.</p> <p>The Department of Housing and Works is looking at the feasibility of introducing a not-for-profit charitable housing company to increase affordable housing for low to moderate income earners. A model has been developed and is being examined by the State Housing Commission.</p>
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.	<p>Department of Housing and Works (DHW)</p> <p><i>Housing Strategy WA</i> will provide strategies to provide a range of housing options to meet our future housing needs over the next 30 years. Rural and remote housing needs will also be recognised in the development of the housing strategy.</p> <p>A draft discussion paper on the housing strategy is expected to be released early in 2005.</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.	This recommendation will be forwarded to the people working on the development of the State Housing Strategy for their consideration and action.	<p>Department of Housing and Works (DHW)</p> <p>The <i>Housing Strategy WA</i> will make a recommendation on this matter, however its implementation is subject to gaining the cooperation of other agencies with identifiable surplus land.</p> <p>An interdepartmental committee, established by the Department of the Premier and Cabinet to dispose of</p>

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			<p>surplus government property assets, supports the principle underlying this recommendation. Its application warrants consideration on a site-specific basis. The DHW is progressively negotiating arrangements with various government agencies in respect to the allocation of land for affordable housing. Agreements have been reached with the East Perth Redevelopment Authority and the Subiaco Redevelopment Authority. Negotiations are under way with LandCorp, the Department of Education, the Department of Health and the Western Australian Government Railways Commission.</p> <p>The East Perth and Subiaco Redevelopment Authorities have a <i>Housing Diversity Policy</i> to ensure that between 10% and 15% of all new housing units are created as 'affordable housing'. Landcorp's stated policy is to make 15% of building lots available for affordable, social, or aged housing purposes.</p> <p>DHW has established jointly with the Department of Planning and Infrastructure (DPI), an Affordable Housing Working Group to develop ways of increasing the supply of affordable housing. Membership of the group consists of DHW, DPI, LandCorp, the Western Australian Local Government Association (WALGA) and the Department of Local Government and Regional Development (DLGRD). The group will develop options for increasing the supply of affordable housing and feed them into the development of the draft Housing Strategy WA. The outcomes of the <i>Dialogue with the City</i> will also be used</p>

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			<p>to inform the development of strategies to increase the level of affordable housing in WA that are acceptable to the community.</p> <p>See also 1.1.1 The Affordable Housing Working Group provided valuable officer level input into and feedback on the discussion draft of the <i>Housing Strategy WA</i> and continues to stay informed on the progress of <i>Dialogue with the City/Network City</i> through DPI updates. The working group is currently developing a draft statement of planning policy on affordable housing. Once finalised the draft will be sent to the WA Planning Commission for their consideration.</p>
1.2	Increase Government funding for social housing		
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) Completed: All States/Territories have now signed the new multilateral housing agreement. The guiding principles for the new CSHA ensure that social housing continues to be targeted to all vulnerable groups in society.
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) Completed: All States/Territories have now signed the new multilateral housing agreement.

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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.	<p>Department of Housing and Works (DHW)</p> <p>The Commonwealth's offer included indexation of <i>Commonwealth State Housing Agreement</i> grants from the second year of the five-year agreement but continues to apply an efficiency dividend and does not include any more GST compensation.</p>
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.	<p>Department of Housing and Works (DHW)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completed \$5m has been included for the provision of 60 units of accommodation for homeless clients as part of the funding from the Rental Accommodation Funding. An additional 195 units were allocated 2003/2004, and since July 2004 a further 50 units have been allocated. • Completed \$5.5m has been included for Special Needs funding for the 71 units to be allocated for Department of Justice (DoJ) and Office of Mental Health projects. • All 38 units for Department of Health have now been provided. See 2.2.5 for details of DoJ allocation. • Completed: A 22 bed hostel for Aboriginal dialysis patients was purchased in Broome (Broometime lodge). Renovations have now been completed. Aboriginal Hostels Ltd took over management of the hostel in September 2003.

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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 DHW Aboriginal Housing and Infrastructure Directorate (AHID) 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. The Commonwealth has provided a further \$1.759M for 2002/03 through to 2006/07. This money will be included in the pool of funds, to be administered by the AHID, and applied under the Indigenous Housing Agreement to improve housing and infrastructure for Aboriginal People.</p> <p>Through the Commonwealth State Housing Agreement (CSHA), the tied Aboriginal Rental Housing Program (ARHP) funds will now be indexed to the CPI.</p> <p>Under the renegotiated CSHA, the Commonwealth is reviewing ARHP funding. The State has made a formal submission to the ARHP review recommending changes to the formula for distributing funds to recognise the extra costs associated with the remoteness of WA.</p>

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			<p>The Commonwealth Department of Family and Community Services has completed the review and the recommendations are with their Minister. The Commonwealth is yet to make a decision on the review, but has made an additional \$3M available for 2004/05 in recognition of WA's rural and remote Aboriginal issues.</p> <p>Given significant changes in Indigenous affairs, the Commonwealth is looking to bring the ARHP and ATSIC Community Housing and Infrastructure CHIP funds under the one umbrella and therefore the review of ARHP has become redundant.</p> <p>Negotiations with the Commonwealth on the distribution of funding between jurisdictions have not commenced.</p>

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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 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 Commonwealth and States.</p> <p>Local government through the WA Local Government Association will be involved by DHW in the development of Housing Strategy WA, including initiatives to increase the supply of affordable housing in WA.</p> <p>At a national level, the Australian Local Government Association has been invited to attend the Housing Ministers' Conference for relevant agenda items. This will include the development of a national framework for national action on affordable housing.</p>
1.3	Broaden opportunities for increasing the amount, durability and type of affordable housing		
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. A review of their effectiveness was undertaken in 2003/04 and confirmed the need for a continuation of the durable housing policy.</p> <p>In 2002/03 DHW commenced the construction of 102 durable dwellings comprised of either "full" or "partial"</p>

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			<p>durable housing units as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indigenous – remote communities – 73 • Indigenous Housing – urban – North Central 7, Kimberley 6, Pilbara 5 • Mainstream Public Housing – Kimberley 10, Pilbara 1 <p>Of these, 101 units have been completed to date.</p> <p>In 2003/04 DHW commenced the construction of a further 53 durable dwellings comprised of either "full" or "partial" durable housing units as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indigenous - remote communities –38 • Indigenous Housing - urban – Central 5, Kimberley 8, Pilbara 2. <p>Of these, 25 units have been completed</p> <p>In 2004/05 DHW plans to commence the construction of 277 durable dwellings in 2004/05 comprising either "full" or "partial" durable housing units as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indigenous – remote communities – 227 • Indigenous Housing – Urban – Southern 7, South West 1, Wheatbelt 7, Goldfields 2, Mid West/Gascoyne 6, Pilbara 6, Kimberley 6 • Mainstream Public Housing – Southern 8, Wheatbelt 7

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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 Directorate (AHID) programs, including town reserves and homeland out-stations, will have housing provided in accordance with the code of practice.</p> <p>In 2002/03, \$35.744 million was spent for Aboriginal programs through AHID and a further \$30.345 million has been spent for 2003/04.</p> <p>It is proposed to spend \$93,426 million in 2004/05. The 2004/05 program has increased predominately due to an increase in funding from ATSIC of \$22.559 million and carryover from 2003/04.</p>
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	<p>Department of Housing and Works (DHW)</p> <p>Discussions have occurred with the newly formed Noongar Mia Mia Pty Ltd (NMM), a housing company established under the auspices of ATSIC, with a view to encouraging and supporting its growth. NMM has been formed to</p>

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		<p>the necessary skills to manage community housing.</p>	<p>become a specialist Indigenous housing provider. \$197,300 was allocated to NMM in April 2003 under the Perth Noongar Regional Housing and Infrastructure Plan for operational support, including external management of 3 metropolitan Communities – Gnangara, Saunders Street and Cullacabardee. In addition, DHW has funded Noongar Mia Mia \$15,000 under the Community Housing Program in 2003/04 to develop housing projects and submissions in 2004/05 and 2005/06.</p> <p>DHW has written to Aboriginal Hostels Limited offering to undertake a joint venture hostel project for homeless Aboriginal people. Negotiations are currently underway.</p> <p>The Homeless Helpline has met with ATSIC, including NMM over the future of the four Aboriginal Land Trust hostels.</p> <p>Community housing stock managed by Indigenous organisations (127 properties) makes up 3.21% of community housing stock. DHW has approved the following funding applications for 2004/05 from Indigenous organisations:</p> <p>Four Indigenous organisations have been approved in the 2004/05 main community housing programs for a total of 8 units of accommodation, with a further 3 Indigenous organisations in the back up program to further develop proposals for another 6 units of accommodation</p> <p>In June 2003, DHW provided a one-off grant of \$28,000 to the Community Housing Coalition of WA as a</p>

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			lead agency for the Kimberley Community Management Support Program to broker links with government departments, services and grants on behalf of Indigenous organisations within the Kimberley. A Regional Community Development Officer was employed, and a database of available services and potential client organisations established. Kimberley Community Management Services completed its first brokerage but has been unable to secure long term funding. As a result they have ceased operations effective August 2004.
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.	<p>Department of Housing and Works (DHW)</p> <p>Community housing surveys all of their provider agencies each financial year. The survey asks housing providers to identify their tenant profile. It is estimated 30% of all community housing properties house Indigenous people. However it should be noted that that this figure includes Crisis Accommodation (CAP) properties which are occupied by a significant number of Indigenous persons and the figure in generic long-term community housing accommodation would be lower.</p> <p>The 2004/05 funding round for the Crisis Accommodation and Joint Venture Housing Programs identifies Indigenous clients as a priority target Group for housing assistance. Five housing units have been approved in the main program and 10 housing units approved in the backup program for Indigenous people.</p>

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1.4	Optimise the access and use of existing housing for people low incomes		
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>DHW have 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.</p> <p>The Community Housing strategic plan has now been approved by the State Housing Commission Board following consultation with the community housing sector.</p> <p>The implementation of a data system is targeted for implementation by 2008 as part of the Community Housing Strategic Plan.</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>Completed – Protocols were developed to 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>Since the commencement of the protocol in March 2003 a total of 13 properties have been rolled over under this protocol.</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.	<p>Department of Housing and Works (DHW)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completed: Bond Assistance Loan Levels were increased on 1 March 2002. A review of current bond levels has been completed and bond loan levels will remain unchanged. • Ingoing fees (letting fees and rent in advance) are granted on a "need only" basis, and are added to the bond loan amount. For the period 1 July 2004 to 31 December 2004, 110 homeless clients have been assisted with a total of \$77,049; comprising of \$44,538 in bond loans \$26084, rent in advance, and \$6,430 letting fees. • 6165 bond loans were approved from 1 July 2004 to 31 December 2004 with a value of \$2.54 million with an average of \$413 per loan. • Since the commencement of the Homeless Helpline 1,996 bond loans (an increase of 308 loans since the Sept 2004 report) have been issued to clients who contacted the Helpline. The bond loans enabled clients to access the private rental market. Of the 1,996 bond loans, 491 have been advanced to Indigenous clients.

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1.4.4	Examine options for incentives for private landlords to accommodate people on low incomes.	<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>Department of Housing and Works (DHW)</p> <p>Protocols have been developed for the referral of properties and clients between Perth Management Services (PMS) and DHW.</p> <p>DHW advises 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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>The majority of referrals for Perth Management Services are from Indigenous families who cannot access the private rental market. From the commencement of the project (November 2002) to 31 December 2004, 21 Indigenous families have been accommodated.</p> <p>Centrelink's <i>Centrepay</i> scheme is being promoted through DHW regional offices to Bond Assistance Loan Applicants as a preferred rental payment option to their landlord. Centrepay 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 which</p>

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			<p>the owner or agent must absorb.</p> <p>Centrepay is trialing an Internet version of the service for organisations that would automatically provide updates on client's payments details daily. This will allow agencies to be informed should a client cancel their Centrepay deduction payment to them.</p> <p>The Homeless Helpline has held discussions with Centrelink over a range of issues including ingoing fees, Centrelink overpayments to clients that are required to pay back the debt to Centrelink, debt management issues. Centrelink has since conducted training for DHW staff.</p>
1.4.5	<p>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>Department of Housing and Works (DHW)</p> <p>Negotiations with Wesley Mission have been completed and they will take referrals of Aboriginal clients to the Wesley Homelink Accommodation Assistance Project. This project replaces the REIWA pilot project.</p>

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1.4.6	Abolish the letting fee currently charged by real estate agents.	Review of the Residential Tenancies Act 1987 (Act).	<p>Department of Consumer and Employment Protection (DOCEP)</p> <p>Stamfords Advisors Consultants (Stamfords) are independent consultants who conducted the statutory review of the Residential Tenancies Act (RTA). DOCEP received their report on Thursday 22 August 2002.</p> <p>The Report, which included the recommendation that the Act be amended to prohibit agents from charging letting fees to tenants, was released for public comment.</p> <p>A DOCEP RTA Review Team is considering the issue of letting fees in conjunction with analysing the Report's recommendations and subsequent public consultation.</p> <p>It is anticipated that a Policy Position Paper containing a proposal in relation to letting fees will be provided for the Minister's consideration in May/June 2005.</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.	Review of the Residential Tenancies Act 1987	<p>Department of Consumer and Employment Protection(DOCEP)</p> <p>These issues were raised as part of the review of the Residential Tenancies Act 1987.</p> <p>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 was</p>

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			<p>undertaken to develop legislation for introduction into Parliament in the second half of 2004.</p> <p>In May 2004, Cabinet approved the drafting of a Bill to regulate the relationship between proprietors of residential parks and those tenants for whom the residential park is their principal place of residence. This Bill is named the <i>Residential Parks (Long-stay Tenants) Bill 2004</i>.</p> <p>On 11 November 2004 the Residential Parks (Long Stay Tenants) Bill2004 was introduced into Parliament. The Bill lapsed on 23/1/2005 when Parliament was prorogued.</p> <p>The Bill is currently being amended prior to being reintroduced into Parliament in 2005.</p> <p>A DOCEP RTA Review Team is considering the issue of boarders and lodgers in conjunction with analysing the Stamfords Report's recommendations and subsequent public consultation.</p> <p>It is anticipated that a Policy Position Paper containing an interim proposal in relation to boarders and lodgers will be provided for the Minister's consideration in mid to late 2005.late 2004/early 2005.</p>

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1.5	Addressing income support issues		
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.	<p>Department of the Premier and Cabinet (DPC) and Department for Community Development (DCD)</p> <p>DCD will continue to raise this issue in the Community Services Ministers Advisory Committee (CSMAC) Welfare Reform Working Group.</p> <p>The Department for Community Development responded to the Commonwealth discussion paper titled "Building a Simpler System to Help Jobless Families and Individuals" noting that there needed to be adequate income support without discrepancies.</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.	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.	<p>Department of the Premier and Cabinet, (DPC) and Department for Community Development (DCD)</p> <p>DCD will continue to raise this issue in the Community Services Ministers Advisory Committee (CSMAC) Welfare Reform Working Group.</p>

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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.	<p>Department of the Premier and Cabinet, (DPC) and Department for Community Development (DCD)</p> <p>DCD has raised this issue at meetings with Centrelink staff.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>The Government will continue to monitor this.</p> <p>Centrelink continues with the strategies identified in the Breaching Decision Improvement Plan. There also continues to be regular monitoring of breaches occurring for particularly vulnerable customers such as Indigenous people and homeless young people.</p>

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2	ACCESS TO SUPPORT SERVICES		
2.1	Support and Advocacy to prevent homelessness		
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.	<p>Department of Housing and Works (DHW) Department of Consumer and Employment Protection (DOCEP) Department for Community Development (DCD)</p> <p>Completed All existing Supported Housing Assistance Program (SHAP), Tenants Advice Services and Financial Counselling Services have continued to be funded. Additional funding was also provided for SHAP and Financial Counselling Services.</p> <p>See items 2.1.7 and 2.1.2. for details.</p>
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 – SHAP</u> Completed DHW has the lead role in this initiative. An additional \$0.5 million (recurrent) was provided for more Supported Housing Assistance Program (SHAP) services in 2002/03, rising to \$1m recurrent from 2003/04, bringing total SHAP funding to \$2.2 million per annum. The funding allocated to SHAP for 2004/2005 is \$2.285 million.</p> <p>SHAP funding for 2002/03 was allocated to existing SHAP providers to increase services.</p>

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			<p>SHAP services operate in all metropolitan areas, and in the following country areas: Albany, Katanning, Narrogin, Bunbury, Busselton, Collie, Mandurah, Geraldton, Meekatharra, Port Hedland, Roebourne, Newman, Broome, Kalgoorlie, Leonora, and Laverton.</p> <p>The expanded SHAP services and the program in general have been evaluated by Ernst and Young and DHW Board of Commissioners have endorsed the Department's recommendation for the use of additional funding to the SHAP of \$500,000 in 2003/2004 to provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of an extended SHAP service in Derby and Halls Creek • Increase the funding for the Department's Transitional Housing Program • Funding to expand existing SHAP services subject to the provision of a Business Case by the Provider. • Fund the development of data collection • Software <p>DHW has appointed Ruah Community Services to undertake the provision of support for homeless people housed through the Homeless Helpline.</p> <p>DHW has also expanded SHAP service to Narrogin and Esperance. A SHAP service will commence in Northam in August 2004 and Anglicare has been contracted to provide a SHAP Service in Halls Creek. This service commenced operating in late 2004. Expressions of</p>

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			<p>interest for the provision of a SHAP service in Derby will be advertised in late January 2005.</p> <p><u>Support for People in Social Housing – Aboriginal Tenant Support Service (ATSS)</u> DHW has the lead role in this initiative. Funding is provided from the pool of funds managed by the DHW Aboriginal Housing and Infrastructure Directorate (AHID) with \$0.52M allocated for 2003/04. ATSS provides services to DHW Aboriginal tenants and clients through regional and remote WA through the contracting of six Aboriginal organisations. Customers are referred to their local ATSS organisation by their Homeswest office, or tenants and clients can self refer.</p> <p>The ATSS program is currently under review to determine its effectiveness in meeting the objectives of the program. A committee has been formed to determine the best service delivery model for the ATSS.</p> <p>The Steering Committee is to submit a preferred service delivery model for the ATSS to the Aboriginal Housing & Infrastructure Council in November 2004. The current ATSS providers will be contracted until 30 June 2005 to provide an Indigenous tenant support service</p> <p><u>DHW Customer Support Officers</u> Three Customer Support Officers are located within the Aboriginal Housing and Infrastructure Directorate to provide advice and assistance to Aboriginal customers</p>

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			<p>on all aspects of services available from Homeswest. They advocate and liaise between DHW Regional offices and Aboriginal customers and provide support and advice to families at risk of losing their tenancy.</p> <p><u>Private Rental Support and Advocacy Program</u> Completed: 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).</p> <p>The service provider selection process has been completed. The new services are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Centrecare Support and Advocacy Services – Mirrabooka/Midland • Ruah Tenancy Support – Armadale/Cannington • Supporting Tenancies, Anglicare Rockingham (STAR) • Geraldton Resource Centre • Capes Accommodation Support and Advocacy (CASA) – Busselton, Margaret River and Dunsborough. • WestAus Accommodation Advocacy Support – Peel • Multicultural Housing Advocacy Services - a metro wide service for migrants.

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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.	<p>Department for Community Development (DCD)</p> <p><u>In Home Practical Support Services</u> Completed The following new services have received funding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Mungallah community near Carnarvon • Town of Kwinana signed a service agreement on 22 March 2004 to manage the Kwinana service. <p>In addition to the DCD services, DHW is providing the following program from within existing resources:</p> <p><u>In House Practical Support Program (IHPSP)</u> This program is administered by DHW and will operate from five locations – Halls Creek, Kalgoorlie/Ninga Mia, Newman/Parnpajinya, Bidyadanga, Warburton. \$350,000 was allocated for 2003/04 however the project encountered some implementation delays. Negotiations are continuing for the service to commence in 2004/05 at Newman, Halls Creek, Bidyadanga and Warburton.</p> <p>A pilot project of the IHPSP was funded in 2003/04 at the Koolbardi Aboriginal Corporation in Queens Park. The project is currently being reviewed which will include a report on outcomes.</p> <p>A financial review of the Koolbardi Aboriginal Corporation was finalised in December 2004.</p>

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			<p>Project Officers have conducted field visits to identified locations and funding agreements have been distributed to various Indigenous organisations to deliver the service to Derby and the surrounding communities in the Jayida Burru AT SIS Ward, Fitzroy Crossing and surrounding communities, Bidyadanga, Halls Creek, Katanning, Parnpajinya (Newman) and Warburton. Service delivery negotiations are continuing with Wiluna, Punju Namal, Warralong and Mirtunkurra. \$855,000 has been allocated for the IHPS in 04/05.</p> <p>In 2004/05 six Indigenous organisations have been contracted to deliver the service in areas throughout the State, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parnpajinya (Newman) • Warralong (Marble Bar) • Mirtunkarra (Marble Bar) • Punju Namel (Port Hedland) • Tjaka Boorda (Port Hedland) • Katanning • Bidyadanga • Derby (surrounding communities) • Fitzroy Crossing (surrounding communities) <p>Further planning is being undertaken to investigate the expansion of the program in 05/06. The program budget 2004/05 budget is \$850,000.</p>

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			<p><u>Access to Private Rental Market</u> A service agreement has been signed between the East Metropolitan Community Housing Association (EMCHA) Midland Information, Debt and Legal Advice Service Inc. and the DHW to provide improved Indigenous access to the private rental market in the metropolitan area. \$32,000 has been allocated for 2004/05. This initiative will assist families to acquire the necessary skills in private housing to reduce their reliance on crisis services. DHW will provide limited underwriting for excessive repair costs attributable to the tenant. DHW has called for Expressions of Interest from other services providers to expand this initiative.</p> <p>EMCHA has recently secured three properties in the private sector and is endeavouring to locate a further three properties to meet the project aims.</p>

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2.1.4	Develop a garden maintenance program available to people in public housing, payment through rental payments.	<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>Department of Housing and Works (DHW) and Department of Justice (DoJ)</p> <p>A Memorandum of Understanding has been developed and endorsed between DHW and DoJ to work together to meet the objectives of the Community Offender Work Project. Pilot projects have been implemented in DHW's Bunbury, Albany, Geraldton and Cannington regions. The agreement defines a partnership to develop and maintain community-based projects/initiatives that would provide offenders with meaningful work opportunities that are socially useful and allowing them to not only fulfill their obligations to the court and community, but also enhance their work and social skills. DoJ is also investigating work opportunities with community housing associations.</p> <p>The DHW / DoJ original pilot project at Brownlie Towers (Cannington Region) was terminated as a result of poor workmanship and some social problems encountered. Up until December 2004 the range of tasks allocated to the work team were adjusted to suit their skills level and gradually, as there was a reduction in suitable work projects, the half-day per week arrangement lapsed.</p> <p>A landscaping project in Subiaco (North Metro Region) was terminated due to absenteeism within the work team causing unacceptable delays in the completion of the project.</p>

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			<p>An Initial project in Albany included a variety of work on several sites. This work was completed successfully.</p> <p>The co-operation and communication between the officers of DHW and DoJ in the Geraldton Region has ensured the continued success of the ongoing landscaping project that commenced in June 2003.</p> <p>DHW has investigated the feasibility of utilising Work for the Dole participants in programs with the Commonwealth Department of Employment and Workplace Relations, however due to limited work constraints, significant resourcing and coordination of any proposed program, DEWR has recommended that DHW focus on the Offender Community Work Project.</p>
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.	<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>Department of Health, Drug and Alcohol Office (DAO)</p> <p>Completed</p> <p>Youth accommodation services in Rockingham, Victoria Park, Armadale and Spearwood have been funded to employ drug and alcohol counsellors.</p>

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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 The Department of Health is establishing the Intensive Community Youth Service in the south metropolitan region. The service will commence in the latter half of 2005. The funding for the service is \$500,000 in 2004/05 and \$1,000,000 in 2005/06 and \$1,000,000 in 2006/07.
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: Completed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 52 Financial Counselling services around the state have received a 15% increase in funding to assist families avoid eviction. • The Youth Legal Service was selected to provide a specialist financial counselling to young people experiencing financial and debt related problems. The service will be based in Perth inner city. • Mission Australia has also been provided with funds to provide financial counselling to homeless young people.

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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.	<p>Department of the Premier and Cabinet (DPC)</p> <p>DHW records data on evictions and establishes where tenants have been evicted for anti-social behaviour.</p> <p>The Equal Opportunity Commission has completed an investigation into public housing provision to Aboriginal people in WA. The report "<i>Finding and Place – An Inquiry into the Existence of Discriminatory Practices in Relation to the Provision of Public Housing and Related Services to Aboriginal People in Western Australia</i>" was released on 15 December 2004.</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.	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>Department of Education (DoE)</p> <p>The Curriculum Council has scheduled the development of the living skills materials for 2004-2005. This target is on track with schools receiving courses that incorporate units of work focusing on living skills such as communication, work related skills and health and wellness. Teachers will have 15 months for planning for implementation of these materials from 2006. Further materials are under development for implementation from 2007. This is part of the implementation of new directions for post compulsory that is inclusive of all students.</p>

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2.2	Leaving institutional and long term care		
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.	<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>. 	Department for Community Development (DCD) Completed <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Three new leaving care service providers have been selected and began operating in mid 2003. The services cover the majority of the state. The successful applicants were: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Salvation Army Crossroads West (Metro/country), • Wanslea Family Services (Rockingham/Peel). • Mission Australia will provide the South West service. 2. The Children and Community Development Bill was tabled in Parliament in December 2003. 3. An agreement has been reached between the Commonwealth and the leaving care services to administer the distribution of <i>Transition to Independent Living Allowance (TILA)</i> funds.
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 has a protocol with DHW to identify and support families at risk of losing accommodation. The DCD and DHW Tenancy Referral Program establishes a protocol whereby any DHW tenant with children, who is under threat of eviction, will be referred to DCD for support. Collaborative case planning for families with children at

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			<p>risk has been incorporated into the work of the DCD and funded agencies. Some agencies are working through formal arrangements such as the Strong Families Program which was expanded following the Gordon Inquiry and others informally, where government and not-for profit agencies are working together to address client needs. Two Projects have been implemented trialling new approaches to case management for high needs families and for people sleeping rough in city Parks. See also 2.4.2.3.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Workers in all DCD funded non-Government agencies have access to CSTC SAAP training on working with homeless people.</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.	<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 	<p>Department of Health, Office of Mental Health</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. By the end of June 2004, 71% of Mental Health Services had completed an in-depth review against the Standards. The remainder are expected to complete in-depth reviews by end of 2005. <p>In addition, standards are also being implemented in the DoH funded non-government mental health sector. The standards, <i>Service Standards for Non-government Providers of Community Mental Health</i></p>

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		<p>\$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>	<p>will be implemented in 2004/05.</p> <p>2. A survey of the needs of people with a mental illness in emergency accommodation has been undertaken to determine support and service models required to accommodate people in the 38 units which were allocated by the Department of Housing and Works (DHW). This allocation will now be used to construct three transition services in Perth, Fremantle and Armadale as per details below.</p> <p>An additional survey has been completed to capture the mental health population residing long term in SAAP services to further inform service development planning.</p> <p>The analysis of both of these surveys has been completed and the final report is being prepared.</p> <p>The Mental Health Strategy 2004/07 includes capacity to establish transition services in Perth, Fremantle and Armadale/Gosnells to support 50 homeless people with a mental illness to move into permanent accommodation. The funding provided is \$1.3 million over the life of the Mental Health Strategy. The service model is being completed and the procurement process finalised.</p>

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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.	<p>Department of Justice (DoJ)</p> <p>DoJ will closely manage those prisoners who are on life or indeterminate sentences through pre release programs. Re-entry coordination services have been developed such as; housing, employment, education and health, which are important for successful reintegration into the community.</p> <p>Service Agreements are now in place with the following Service Providers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ruah - Women in the Metropolitan area • Outcare - Men in the Metropolitan area • Geraldton Resource Centre - Mid/West region • Centrecare - Eastern Goldfields region • Men's Outreach Service-Kimberley region • Hedland CDEP Aboriginal Corporation – Pilbara region.
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.	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>Department of Justice (DoJ) Department of Housing and Works (DHW)</p> <p>A service model has been developed and implemented jointly with the DHW for a pilot project. Non government agencies have been contracted through an open competitive process to provide mentoring and re-entry support services to assist clients maintain accommodation and develop and maintain skills required for daily living, improve personal and social interaction, and increase participation in community life.</p>

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		<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>The services are operated by Centrecare, Ruah Community Services and Mosaic Family Support Services in the metropolitan area. Agencies for South West Accommodation in Bunbury, Great Southern Community Partnerships in Albany and the Geraldton Resource Centre will operate regional services. Services have commenced in a staged approach and the first prisoner participating in the program was released and moved into the allocated accommodation on 1 August 2003. <i>As at 30 December 2004 72 ex-offenders have taken part in the program.</i></p> <p>DHW has committed to make available 33 dwellings, 22 in the metropolitan area and 11 in regional areas (Albany, Katanning, Bunbury, Busselton, Geraldton). DHW provides all 33 dwellings on a rolling basis to meet the demand of the program.</p> <p><i>It is planned to expand the program to the Eastern Goldfields, Kimberley and Pilbara regions. The engagement of Service Providers in these regions to provide support is being progressed.</i></p> <p>A directory of support services booklet has been produced and distributed to prisoners, which provides details of peak bodies which may be able to help prisoners find suitable housing on leaving prison.</p>

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2.3	Long term accommodation with support		
2.3.1	The Disability Services Commission provides more support for people in long term supported accommodation	<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 Combined Applications Process and should meet the recommended resourcing levels.</p> <p>The Government is renegotiating the Commonwealth State Disability Agreement.</p>	<p>Disability Services Commission</p> <p>The Disability Services Commission allocated \$3.4m in 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.</p> <p>Completed DSC has committed all funds and offered accommodation support services to 92 people in 2002/03.</p> <p>In 2003/04 a further \$4.025 million recurrent funding was provided for accommodation support. A total of 103 people were supported.</p> <p>In 2004/05 \$5.7 million has been allocated to provide support for a further 126 people. The Commonwealth State Disability Agreement was signed in June 2003.</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>The Premier is vigorously pursuing the Commonwealth Government on this issue because it needs urgent action.</p> <p>The Government has committed \$21 million to commission up to 150 aged care beds plus \$3 million capital for</p>	<p>Department of the Premier and Cabinet (DPC) Department of Health (DoH)</p> <p>The Prime Minister has agreed that ageing issues will be one of the 'national' issues for consideration by the <i>Commission on Australian Government (COAG)</i>. A report on ageing issues was presented to the meeting of</p>

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		interim aged care facilities for Care Awaiting Placement Program purposes over the next four years.	<p>COAG in December 2002. Ageing issues will become a standing item for COAG and a further report will be made to the next meeting.</p> <p>The Australian Health Care Agreement was ratified in September 2003 and included additional beds.</p> <p><u>WA Transitional Care Service (TCS)</u> In addition, Transitional Care Pilots were developed in collaboration with the Commonwealth in order to provide finite term residential care with a rehabilitative focus.</p> <p>The contract for this service has been awarded to Aegis Health Care Group to provide 50 places (20 residential beds and 30 community packages of care) for clients in the north metropolitan area for a period of two years commencing November 2002.</p> <p>The first evaluation of the Transitional Care Service has been conducted. The initial evaluations are positive and pilot will be extended into 2005.</p> <p><u>Intermittent Care Service (ICS) in Western Australia</u> The Commonwealth has accepted a DoH proposal for 50 additional places from the Aged Care Innovative Pool. An Expression of Interest for the 50 places was advertised and the Service is expected to commence operation in July 2004. This will further increase the bed capacity in the metropolitan public hospital system and will result in additional \$2.5M pa revenue for the</p>

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			<p>State. The Expression of Interest for the 50 places has closed and negotiations are continuing with an approved provider.</p> <p><u>Care Awaiting Placement (CAP)</u> A contract for the 44 places has been signed between North Metropolitan Health Service and Brightwater Care Group and services will commence on 20 September 2004.</p>
2.3.3	<p>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>Department of Health (DoH)</p> <p>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.</p> <p>A total of \$10.35million additional funding has been allocated through the Home and Community Care (HACC) Program in 2002/03. Included is funding for Indigenous aged people living in Albany, Kalgoorlie/Boulder, the Kimberley and Pilbara regions.</p> <p>An additional \$10.2 million has been allocated to the WA HACC Program for 2003/04. One new strategy has been to fund an ATSI Development and Training Officer to work with HACC agencies to build capacity in delivering services to ATSI clients.</p> <p>A further \$10.3 million has been allocated to the HACC</p>

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			Program for 2004/05. New initiatives include a "Strength from Elders" project that aims to attract Aboriginal male carers for older men in the Kimberley and to promote cultural security. Another initiative is a Transport options project to develop a model for an integrated transport service across the Kimberley remote communities.
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 (125 as at Dec 2004) per annum under its <i>Community Disability Housing Program</i>.</p>	<p>Department of Health (DoH) Department of Housing and Works (DHW)</p> <p>1. 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. The DHW is represented on the implementation steering committee. The program will 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>Planning has identified the service model and specific accommodation required. DHW is clarifying advice from the DoH on the housing models, is continuing to undertake land searches for possible sites and continues to work with the DoH in progressing the development of the project.</p> <p>The project includes the establishment of a Clinical Rehabilitation Service required to support the residents</p>

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			<p>once they move to the community.</p> <p>2. The Office of Mental Health has completed a tendering and service expansion process to increase state wide support to carers by \$650,000 per annum.</p> <p>3. Under current partnerships with the Department of Health, there is an ongoing commitment to provide approximately 60 units of supported accommodation per annum to people with a mental illness. There have been in excess of 540 properties provided under this program since its inception in 1995.</p> <p>Additional properties for the Independent Living Program (ILP) have been identified. A Request For Quotation was advertised in October 2002 to find suitable non-Government providers to provide the support. This was almost completed, however, due to funding constraints within the Health budget the implementation of this project was postponed.</p> <p>Expansion of the ILP will now proceed under the Mental Health Strategy 2004/07 which contains capacity to expand community based psychosocial support (non-government providers of disability support to ILP and people living in their own homes). \$1,000,000 will be provided in 2005/06 and a further \$1,000,000 in 2006/07.</p> <p>To expend the State Homelessness Strategy funding in</p>

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			<p>2002/03, it was agreed between DHW and Office for Mental Health that the commitment for the ILP would be increased in 2002/03 from 60 units to 98 units. The DoH will establish the service requiring the 38 units when funding is restored. See initiative 2.2.3. The service planning is being finalised.</p> <p>4. In addition to the ILP commitment of 60 units the Department of Housing and Works has agreed to provide 5 new supported housing models, including Community Options 100, for people with mental illness, at a cost of \$24.14m.</p> <p>5. DHW has been working with DoH in developing a housing model for the Whitby Falls Psychiatric Hostel residents and is working with DoH to identify the portion of land that will be used for the project. Land has been identified, however infrastructure work to service the site with access, water, electricity and sewage must be undertaken before development can occur.</p> <p>This will impact on the timeframe as to when the housing can be constructed. Preliminary costs have been forwarded to DoH for their consideration and acceptance.</p> <p>DHW have appointed the site engineer and the architect, which is the commencement of the construction phase. DOH approved the site preparation costs and is finalising the support framework and</p>

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			<p>developing the tender for the accommodation service.</p> <p>Preliminary plans have been completed and work to provide infrastructure services to the site are progressing in collaboration with the Department of Health.</p>
2.3.5	<p>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.</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 a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Australian 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>Department of Housing and Works (DHW) Department for Community Development (DCD)</p> <p>Ongoing - 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) which includes a new Support and Advocacy Service for Migrants in Private Rental Accommodation will be available to assist newly arrived migrants.</p> <p>DCD and the Commonwealth Department of Immigration Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs (DIMIA) have reached in principle agreement regarding a Memorandum of Understanding for the reimbursement to the DCD for the cost of supports to unaccompanied minors released from immigration detention to live in the community. DCD is finalising draft wording in the document before making a final recommendation to the Minister for Community Development.</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>\$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> <p>Under the 2004/05 DHW funding round for the Crisis Accommodation and Joint Venture Housing Programs, 12 projects totalling 22 units have been recommended for approval for youth as their primary target group.</p>
2.3.8	Department of Health and the Department of Justice implement head leasing 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>Due to the high cost of leasing private rental, it was not financially feasible for pursue this option. However, other programs are in place to assist this target group access private rental such as Bond Assistance, Wesley Homelink and the Homeless Helpline.</p> <p>A directory of support services booklet has been produced and distributed to prisoners, which provides details of peak bodies which may be able to help prisoners find suitable housing on leaving prison.</p>

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			<p>DoH and DWH are collaborating to implement a post discharge supported accommodation transition service for people leaving the Frankland Unit (the secure forensic mental health service located at Graylands Hospital).</p> <p>(see also clause 2.2.5 & 2.3.5)</p>
2.4	Support for people who are homeless		
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>A number of across Government projects have been implemented with this aim. For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • The Strong Families Program involves a range of Government Departments working together to provide coordinated services to at risk families. • DoH conducted a research project to determine the accommodation support needs of homeless people with mental health conditions. • DHW has established a working group to develop

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			<p>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</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DoJ has implemented a range of new re-entry services to assist prisoner re-entry to the community upon release. The implementation of the program is being evaluated. The final report on the evaluation is due on 31 July 2005. • 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. • DoH and DoJ are developing a policy paper to address the needs of prisoners with a mental illness post prison discharge. • DoH and DHW are collaborating to implement a post discharge supported accommodation transition service for people leaving the Frankland Unit (the secure forensic mental health service located at Graylands Hospital). • DHW has a debt discount scheme whereby clients who wish to apply for DHW bond or rental assistance can receive a 50% reduction in their debt once the initial 50% of the debt has been paid.

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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>Ongoing DHW is continuing to explore options for homeless Aboriginal people.</p> <p>The Aboriginal Housing and Infrastructure Directorate (AHID) is represented on the Indigenous Homelessness Steering Committee (IHSC) which has been formed in collaboration with SAAP State Advisory Committee Aboriginal People's Working Party to address Indigenous homelessness issues. This committee is supported by a working group consisting of key stakeholders from state government agencies, local government and the non-government sector.</p> <p>Sub committees have been formed to work on identified priority groups. An action plan is being developed for rough sleepers. Terms of Reference include the hostel and shelter recommendations 2.4.1.2 and 2.4.2.3.</p> <p>The role previously performed by sub committees is now being undertaken through a new senior policy officer (contract position) established by the Department of Housing and Works until December 2005. The policy officer commenced at the end of November 2004.</p> <p>Aboriginal Hostels Ltd (AHL) re-opened their Allawah Grove hostel in August 2004. It has capacity to accommodate up to 22 homeless people for up to 3 months.</p>

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			<p>The IHWP has developed the concept of a pathway model to plan for services. Negotiations with AHL will continue to expand on the pathway model.</p> <p>Ongoing: The Goderich Street site will provide 6 self contained 1bedroom units for people who need limited support, using a SHAP service. The building on the site has now been demolished. The contract for construction was let on 30 June 2004 and is scheduled to complete in December 2005.</p> <p>Permanent accommodation for Aboriginal clients is now operating at Brown Ave, Kalgoorlie. There are 11 units (one for caretaker) at the Brown Ave Complex in Kalgoorlie.</p> <p>Duncan House in Kununurra was purchased by the Aboriginal Housing Infrastructure Directorate for the Wunan Aboriginal foundation for a hostel for Aboriginal trainees and students in the Kimberley region.</p> <p>Ongoing: Derbarl Yerrigan Medical Service will be consulted over the future use of Boomerang house in Bulwer Street Highgate.</p> <p>DHW has agreed through the Aboriginal Housing and Infrastructure Directorate for a frail aged hostel in Kenwick, through a partnership with Aboriginal Hostels.</p>

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			Negotiations are continuing with "Children of Sister Kates Inc." for the provision of well-aged seniors accommodation on the Sister Kates' site in Queens Park. These homes are targeted towards people known as the stolen generation.
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) Completed: Great Mates was the successful applicant for the Fremantle youth crisis accommodation service. The service opened in January 2003 in temporary remises in Spearwood. A suitable vacant site in Hamilton Hill to construct a permanent facility was acquired in December 2003. Plans for subdivision are proceeding. The Architect has been selected and design for the new facility is progressing. The sub-division of the site has commenced. Nirrumbuk Aboriginal Corporation has been selected to provide the Broome youth accommodation service. DHW has agreed to provide 6 units under its supported housing program.
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) Completed: Communicare was selected as the service provider, a facility in Calista identified and refurbishment was completed in May 2003. The " <i>Breathing Space</i> " service opened in June 2003.

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			<p>The Department of Housing and Works has approved a project in Bunbury with the South West Aboriginal Medical Service (SWAMS) to assist men following incidents of family violence. DHW was working towards an upgrade of an existing house with SWAMS agreement. Support for the men will be provided within the existing resources of SWAMS.</p> <p>Plans for the proposed development were submitted to council for development approval and were subsequently declined following significant community opposition. The Department is currently looking for an alternative site.</p>
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.	<p>Department for Community Development (DCD)</p> <p>Completed - Wesley Mission Perth was the successful applicant for this service. The <i>Wesley Homelink</i> service began operating in June 2003. Referrals to the service are through the Homeless Helpline, Salvo Care Line, DCD and Crisis Care Line, Financial Counselling and Private Rental Support and Advocacy services. The service was reviewed in July 2004 and the referral base expanded to include Centrelink Personal Advisors, and SAAP crisis accommodation services.</p>

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2.4.2.2	Continue the Homeless Helpline as part of the service system.	<p>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.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	<p>Department of Housing and Works (DHW)</p> <p>DHW has formally incorporated the Homeless Help Line into the structure of the Department, ensuring its continuation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From 1 July 2004 to 31 December 2004, 784 people contacted the Homeless Helpline on 1,039 occasions. Of these 170 people were literally without shelter at the time of call. 614 people had temporary accommodation but no home of their own. • 165 people were referred to overnight vacancies in crisis accommodation. • 685 people were advised to apply for bond assistance of which 498 were issued with bond assistance loans. Of these 125 Indigenous clients were issued with a Bond Assistance Loan. • 70 people were housed in Homeswest rental accommodation. <p>Note: A single caller may be provided with more than one service, for example provided with overnight accommodation and referred for bond assistance.</p>
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	<p>Department of Indigenous Affairs (DIA)</p> <p>The Terms of Reference Indigenous Homelessness Steering Committee (IHSC) referred to in 2.4.1.2 also include recommendation 2.4.2.3.</p>

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		<p>whether such a facility can contribute to addressing the complex issues surrounding Aboriginal people in the inner city.</p> <p>The Department of Indigenous Affairs (DIA) will assist in negotiating with ATSIC to investigate funding and support for these options.</p> <p>The Kalgoorlie Boulder City Council has established a similar project in Yarri Road Camp.</p> <p>DIA will continue to monitor such activity.</p>	<p>In September 2004, the Minister for Community Development approved a one year project, to second a DCD Community Capacity Builder to work with the people frequenting parks in the Perth, Highgate and Northbridge areas, develop and implement strategies to assist them. Work will be undertaken in consultation with the Indigenous Homelessness Steering Committee (see 2.4.1.2).</p> <p>The Yarri Road Camp project in Kalgoorlie is generally working well. DIA has identified some areas that require attention.</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.	DCD will work with WACOSS and the Lotteries Commission to secure funding for this important development.	<p>Department for Community Development (DCD) Lotteries Commission</p> <p>The project identified in 2.4.2.3 is working with a number of people who have been banned from services. The findings from this project will be useful in developing future strategies for other high need clients.</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. The Department	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	<p>Department of Housing and Works (DHW) Department of Education (DoE)</p> <p>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 7 x 1 and 3 x 2 bedroom units for students at the Cyril Jackson High School in Ashfield.</p>

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	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.	and tenancy management.	The construction of these units has commenced and is 52% completed. It is expected to be completed early 2005.
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 (DAO)</p> <p>The number of Sobering Up Centres has increased, from 10 centres with 175 beds in 2000/01 to 14 centres with 240 beds.</p> <p>The new centres are located in</p> <p>Perth (Karlhimia - Anawim Women's Refuge) Midland Wyndham Geraldton</p> <p>In addition the Kalgoorlie Centre had an increase of 20 beds and the Salvation Army, Wright Street Centre has been refurbished.</p> <p>The decision to establish the Carnarvon Sobering Up Centre has been deferred to the 2005/2006 financial year.</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"> 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>Department for Community Development (DCD)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Funds have been distributed to 17 of the 18 refuges in rural and remote locations, with the other on hold at the agency's request. 2. Completed Parkerville Children's Home Inc and Centrecare Inc were selected to provide services to work with children of families in supported accommodation. Parkerville will operate in the northern suburbs and Centrecare in the south and east metropolitan areas. 3. Completed These funds have been provided on a pro rata basis to five existing agencies that provide supported accommodation for young parents who have experienced homelessness. The agencies will use to funds to provide additional support services focussing on parenting skills. The agencies receiving the funding are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anglicare YES! Housing, • Mercy Youth Services, • Fremantle Community Youth Services, • Mission Australia Youth Accommodation, and • Victoria Park Youth Accommodation. <p>The Supported Accommodation Assistance Program State Advisory Committee is managing a study of the impact of this additional funding on the provision of services to children. The University of Western Australia was contracted to undertake the study which is due to be completed in early 2005.</p>

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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.	<p>Department of Health (DoH)</p> <p>The Street Doctor program, which provides medical and related services to street-based populations in the inner city area, has been continued and amalgamated with the Mobile Access Centre (MAC) bus, which provides a mobile service to young people in the Swan Hills area. The combined service, operated by Perth and Hills Division of General Practice will receive a total of \$154,650 in IHSY funding for 2004/2005.</p> <p>The DoH is now also funding Freo Street Doctor at \$72,170 for 2004/2005. Contracts have been signed with Street Doctor/Mobile Access Centre and Freo Street Doctor for funding until 30 June 2006.</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>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</p>	<p>Department of Health (DoH) – HACC</p> <p>Ongoing The Home and Community Care Program (HACC) 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 attending. 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>

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		provided by the HACC program.	<p>A service for homeless HACC clients commenced in April 2004. The service is located in Armadale and I provides a centre based day care, personal care and social support services specifically targeting homeless HACC clients in the south east metropolitan area.</p> <p>The agency providing the service to homeless HACC clients has provided services to 28 new clients, 18 being from ATSI background.</p>
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.	<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>Department for Community Development (DCD) Lotteries Commission</p> <p>DCD is continuing to fund the No Interest Loans Scheme (NILS) through the Western Australian NILS Network.</p> <p>DCD commenced an investigation into the need and feasibility of establishing a furniture bank or scheme. The report is due for completion in early 2005.</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.	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>The Government made no commitment to this recommendation. However the following is noted:</p> <p>Western Power 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</p>

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		<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>case basis, however arrangements are still required for the repayment of past debts. To date Western Power has reported little demand for this service.</p> <p>Western Power has also 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.</p> <p>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</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>Department of the Premier and Cabinet (DPC)</p> <p>A State Homelessness Strategy Monitoring Committee has been established. For details of the membership and Terms of Reference go to State Homelessness Strategy web site www.homeless.dhw.wa.gov.au</p> <p>To date the committee has:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Produced quarterly updates on the progress of the implementation. • Employed a consultant to develop key Performance Indicators and an evaluation plan for the implementation of the State Homelessness Strategy. • Produced two reports against Performance Indicators as at 30 June 2003 and 2004. • An evaluation of the implementation of the State Homelessness Strategy was approved by the April meeting of the Cabinet Standing Committee on Social Policy. <p>All reports are available on the State Homelessness Strategy web site www.homeless@dhw.wa.gov.au .</p> <p>The April 2004 meeting of the Cabinet Standing Committee on Social Policy agreed that the State Homelessness Strategy Monitoring Committee would continue until December 2005 to complete its work.</p>

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			A Request for Tender was advertised in November 2004 for a consultant to conduct an impact and outcome evaluation of the Strategy to provide information to make decisions on the future of the Strategy, its funded initiatives, and lead into the 2006 budget process.
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) Ongoing The Department of Indigenous Affairs is being kept informed and consulted as appropriate through Ministerial and Departmental channels. For example DIA is a member of the DHW Indigenous Homelessness Working Party established to progress initiatives 2.4.1.2 and 2.4.2.3.
3.2	Legislation		
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) 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 Commonwealth/State agreements. This was considered during the review of the Commonwealth/State Housing Agreement (CSHA). DCD advises the Supported Accommodation Assistance Program (SAAP) National Co-ordination and Development Committee is investigating "International

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			<p>and National Trends in Homelessness". This project is examining policy and legislation approaches. The final report is nearing completion.</p> <p>A new section in the 2003 CSHA requires the Commonwealth, 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 Commonwealth State agreements" and mentions the CSTDA, SAAP, Home and Community Care Program and the Australian Health Care Agreements.</p>
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>Department of the Premier and Cabinet (DPC)</p> <p>Government agencies have participated in the following initiatives which will promote public debate on homelessness:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • April 2003 – the Government presented a paper on the State Homelessness Strategy at the National Homelessness Conference. See the homeless web site under "what's new" for a copy. • 17 October 2003 – International Day for the Eradication of Poverty. DHW coordinated an information services expo titled "For Richer or Poorer, helping make ends meet" and approximately 30 agencies attended. Agencies involved provided information on services in financial counselling, legal

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			<p>advice, income support, community services, employment, and housing/tenancy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 May 2004 – officers from DCD and DHW attended the Emergency Relief Conference to discuss issues of homelessness and promote the new services funded through the State Homelessness Strategy. • 15 June 2004 – the Chairperson of the State Homelessness Strategy Monitoring Committee gave a presentation on the Strategy at the annual WACOSS conference. • On 5 August 2004, the Executive Officer to the Monitoring Committee gave a talk on homelessness to year 12 students at Ballajurra Community College. <p>Although there have been some activities aimed at raising public awareness about the issue of homelessness, there is room for more work in this area. Relevant agencies will continue to progress opportunities to increase community awareness of homelessness within our community.</p>

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3.4	Working Together		
3.4.1	State Government agencies develop better ways of collecting data on people who are homeless.	<p>All State and Territory Governments are supporting the work of analysing the 2001 Census focusing on homelessness.</p> <p>This information will assist Government agencies in developing better ways of understanding the number of people they work with who are homeless.</p> <p>Western Australian Government agencies will be cognizant of the need to include indicators of homelessness when redeveloping current client data collection methods.</p>	<p>Department for Community Development (DCD)</p> <p>Several reports have been produced which outline the scale of homelessness for different populations in Western Australia:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The first part of the 2001 census analysis produced the report - <i>Youth Homelessness in 2001</i>. • A second report "Homeless Careers" was published in May 2003. The reports are available at the following site: www.salvos.org.au/salvos/new/me.get?site.home Under Publications/ Social Issues/Homelessness • The <i>Counting the Homeless 2001</i> report was released in November 2003. The figures indicate 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. • A more detailed paper, <i>Counting the Homeless 2001 – WA Report</i> was released in July 2004. • A Survey has been undertaken by the Office of Mental Health to determine the needs of people with a mental illness in emergency accommodation. • The Department for Community Development will continue to work with the Australian Bureau of Statistics on the issue of the collection of homelessness data.

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3.4.2	Develop a commitment across the Government and community sector to work together in implementing the Action Plan.	<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>Department for Community Development (DCD)</p> <p>The work of the State Homelessness Strategy Monitoring Committee has ensured this commitment has been achieved.</p> <p>For details of the membership and Terms of Reference go to www.homeless.dhw.wa.gov.au</p>
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.	<p>Department of the Premier and Cabinet (DPC)</p> <p>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 and the Functional Review Taskforce.</p> <p><i>Initial meetings have been held between DPC Policy Division and DTF regarding joined up approaches to new and existing funding.</i></p> <p><i>Multi-lateral bids were successfully developed for the Industry Plan's Indexation Policy for the non-Government Human Services Sector and for the Active Ageing Strategy.</i></p>

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			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 Managers' Forums to enable collaboration and integration of Government initiatives.
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.	<p>Department of the Premier and Cabinet (DPC)</p> <p>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 www.dpc.wa.gov.au/psmd/pubs/psrd/community/fundpurchasepolicy.pdf</p> <p>A standard service agreement has been developed for use by all Government departments in contracting community based service provision. The Agreement came into effect on 1 July 2003 and will be progressively implemented in new and renewed contracts. Some finalisation of the schedules is being discussed with WACOSS.</p> <p><i>A standard grant agreement is also in the process of being developed.</i></p> <p>The Government established a working party to develop</p>

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			<p>an <i>Industry Plan for the non Government Human Services Sector</i>. Terms of Reference include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • improving and strengthening the relationship between the government and non government sectors, promoting a proactive and consistent policy approach in line with the Government's goals of coordination, inclusion, collaboration and flexibility. • to develop policies related to the funding and purchasing of services. <p>The Industry Plan is complete and was launched at the Western Australian Council of Social Services Conference on 15 June 2004.</p>