

**Progress Report on the Implementation of the Western Australian State Homelessness Strategy
as at 30 June 2005**

Note: Developments since the previous update (December 2004) are indicated in red.
Background to completed items can be found in earlier progress reports.

No	Recommendation Summary	Summary of Government Commitments For full text see The Government's Response to the Report of the Homelessness Taskforce: <u>'Putting People First'</u>	Implementation Status
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 discussion paper is being prepared for public consultation for release in the first half of 2005/06 subject to approval by Cabinet.</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>Housing, planning and local government officials have prepared a framework for national action on affordable housing. A joint meeting of housing, planning and local government ministers is to consider the framework on 4 August 2005.</p> <p>The Department of Housing and Works is looking at the feasibility of introducing a not-for-profit charitable housing</p>

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			<p>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> <p>The Minister for Housing and Works has endorsed a not-for-profit housing company model, subject to funding arrangements being finalised with the Commonwealth Department of Family and community Services. The model will then be submitted to State Cabinet for final endorsement to establish the company.</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>See 1.1.1 for update.</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>No new information. Refer December 2004 Progress Report.</p>

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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: Refer September 2003 Progress Report for further information.
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: Refer December 2003 Progress Report for further information.
1.2.3	Injection of Commonwealth funds to maintain and increase current social housing and stock levels.	Increased funding from the Commonwealth will be sought to increase the amount of social housing that is affordable for low-income households. Any increase from the Commonwealth will be matched by the State.	Department of Housing and Works (DHW) 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.
1.2.4	Injection of State funds to maintain and increase current social housing stock levels.	A special one-off injection of \$10.5 million will be made to provide additional public housing. \$5million will be allocated for general public housing and \$5.5 million to provide special needs housing to be targeted at people with mental health problems and people leaving prisons.	Department of Housing and Works (DHW) Completed: See December 2003 Progress Report for further information.

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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 Commonwealth funding for 2004-05 is a combination of ARHP (\$21.177M) and CHIP (Community Housing and Infrastructure Program) funding (\$40.159M) plus \$0.550M allocated by the Commonwealth towards Surveys and Town Planning, a total of \$61.886M.</p> <p>Please refer to earlier reports for further details.</p>
1.2.6	Local Government to be involved in a three way partnership with State and Commonwealth Government in negotiating CSHA.	The State Government will ask the Commonwealth to invite Local Government to participate in the Commonwealth State Housing Agreement negotiations.	<p>Department of Housing and Works (DHW)</p> <p>Completed: 2003 CSHA signed in July 2003.</p> <p>At a national level, the Australian Local Government Association has observer status at the Housing Ministers' Conference for relevant agenda items. This will include the development of a framework for national action on affordable housing.</p>

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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) 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. Refer to Progress Report June 2003 for further details.</p> <p>In 2003/04 DHW commenced the construction of a further 53 durable dwellings comprised of either "full" or "partial" durable housing units. Of these 45 units have been completed. Refer to previous reports for full details.</p> <p>In 2004/05 DHW commenced the construction of 162 durable dwellings comprising either "full" or "partial" durable housing units as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indigenous – remote communities – 134 • Indigenous Housing – Urban – Southern 5, MidWest/Gascoyne 6, Pilbara 3, Kimberley 6 • Mainstream Public Housing – Southern 6, Pilbara 2. <p>Of the 162 units, 16 have been completed.</p> <p>In 2005/2006 DHW plans to commence the construction of 109 durable dwellings comprising either "full" or "partial" durability as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indigenous – remote communities – 90. • Indigenous Housing – urban – Southern 2, Wheatbelt 1, Goldfields 2, Mid West/Gascoyne 1, Pilbara 3, Kimberley 4. • Mainstream Public Housing – Southern 1, Wheatbelt 5.

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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>It is proposed to spend \$115.230 million in 2005/06 on Aboriginal programs through AHID.</p> <p>Refer to earlier reports for further details.</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 the necessary skills to manage community housing.	<p>Department of Housing and Works (DHW)</p> <p>Noongar Mia Mia Pty Ltd has been formed to become a specialist Indigenous housing provider.</p> <p>DHW has funded NM M \$15,000 under the Community Housing Program in 2003/04 to develop housing projects and submissions in 2004/05 and 2005/06. Refer to previous reports for further information.</p> <p>Community housing stock managed by Indigenous organisations (127 properties) makes up 3.21% of community housing stock. DHW has approved community housing funding applications from four Indigenous organisations in 2004/05 for a total of 8 units of accommodation. A further 3 Indigenous organisations are in the back up program to develop proposals for another 6 units of accommodation.</p>

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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>
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>The implementation of a data system is targeted for implementation by 2008 as part of the Community Housing Strategic Plan. See earlier Progress Reports for further information.</p>

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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.	Department of Housing and Works (DHW), and Department for Community Development (DCD) Completed – Refer December 2004 Progress Reports for further information.
1.4.3	Increase the amount of bond assistance currently provided by Housing and Works for people to access private rental to the full cost of the bond and two weeks rent in advance.	From 1 March 2002, the Government increased the maximum bond loan amounts to better reflect the amount of bond required. Evaluation required.	Department of Housing and Works (DHW) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completed: Bond Assistance Loan Levels were increased on 1 March 2002. • 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 30 June 2005, 344 homeless clients have been assisted with a total of \$ 259,354 comprising of \$163,299 in bond loans; \$83,570 rent in advance, and \$12,485 letting fees. • 12,021 bond loans were approved from 1 July 2004 to 30 June 2005 with a value of \$5.030 million with an average of \$418 per loan. • Since the commencement of the Homeless Helpline 2,165 bond loans have been issued to clients who contacted the Helpline (an increase of 169 loans since the December 2004 report). The bond loans have enabled clients to access the private rental market. Of the 2,165 bond loans, 501 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>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>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 30 June 2005, 24 Indigenous families have been accommodated.</p> <p>Centrelink has advised that the internet trial providing Centrepay vendors with on-line viewing of client payments and deduction arrangements has moved to full production. Centrelink estimates there are 400 vendors in WA using the service of which 60% are real estate agents. A small number of private landlords are also using the service.</p>

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1.4.5	Department of Housing and Works build on the current pilot project with the Real Estate Institute of WA to enable Aboriginal people and young people to access private rental by headleasing private rental stock, underwriting potential damage and the provision of support.	DHW has established a pilot project with the Real Estate Institute of WA to assist 10 Indigenous families into private rental sector accommodation. The Department will underwrite any rent loss or property damage and provide additional support to the tenants where appropriate, at an estimated cost of \$100,000. A review of the trial will be complete by 31 December 2002.	Department of Housing and Works (DHW) Negotiations with Wesley Mission have been completed. Where appropriate Aboriginal clients are referred to Wesley Homelink to assist with locating private rental. This project replaces the REIWA pilot project.
1.4.6	Abolish the letting fee currently charged by real estate agents.	Review of the Residential Tenancies Act 1987 (Act).	Department of Consumer and Employment Protection (DOCEP) A statutory review of the Residential Tenancies Act has been completed (RTA). DOCEP received the report from Stamfords Advisors Consultants on Thursday 22 August 2002. 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. A DOCEP RTA Review Team is considering the issue of letting fees in conjunction with analysing the Report's recommendations and subsequent public consultation. 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 September 2005 .

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1.4.7	Ensure security of tenure for long term tenants in caravan parks and boarding/lodging houses by investigating the merits of legislating to protect the tenure of long term residents in caravan parks, lodging and boarding houses.	Review of the Residential Tenancies Act 1987	<p>Department of Consumer and Employment Protection(DOCEP)</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. The Bill is currently being amended prior to being reintroduced into Parliament in 2005. Refer earlier Progress Reports for background details</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. 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 September 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 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> <p>The State Government, in conjunction with other stakeholders, is also attempting to raise this issue at the Council of Australian Governments through the New Reform Initiatives Working Group.</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> <p>The "contact policy" requirements in regard to breaching have been modified to ensure that personal factors and circumstances, together with disadvantage factors are taken into account <i>before</i> any decision is made to apply a breach. Specialist Officers are consulted and are an integral part of the decision making process."</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.	Department of Housing and Works (DHW) Department of Consumer and Employment Protection (DOCEP) Department for Community Development (DCD) Completed All existing Supported Housing Assistance Program (SHAP), Tenants Advice Services and Financial Counselling Services have continued to be funded. Additional funding has also been provided for SHAP and Financial Counselling Services. See items 2.1.7 and 2.1.2. for details.
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.	Department for Community Development (DCD) Department of Housing and Works (DHW) Completed – see December 2004 Progress reports for further details.
2.1.3	Develop practical in home support services to assist people in gaining the skills to manage in a home. These services to be developed with the Aboriginal communities and migrant communities where appropriate.	\$150 000 through the Government's Family Strength program is committed for the development of two services for Indigenous families.	Department for Community Development (DCD) Completed – see earlier Progress reports for details. In addition to the DCD services, DHW is providing an <u>In House Practical Support Program (IHPSP)</u> from within existing resources. The program budget for 2004/05 budget was \$850,000. Further planning is being undertaken to investigate the expansion of the program in 05/06.

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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>DHW and DoJ have a Memorandum of Understanding to work together in partnership to meet the objectives of the Community Offender Work Project. DHW will identify projects or initiatives to provide offenders with work opportunities that are socially useful and allow them to fulfill their obligations to the court and community, and enhance work and social skills.</p> <p>Work for the Dole: Refer December 2004 Progress Report</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: Youth accommodation services in Rockingham, Victoria Park, Armadale and Spearwood have been funded to employ drug and alcohol counsellors.</p>
2.1.6	Increase the level of immediate clinical support for people with mental illness in all areas by increasing the capacity of the local Mental Health Teams to meet the demand of people in need.	<p>\$500 000 in 2002/03 rising to \$800 000 to establish a new south metro service for vulnerable youth with mental health problems.</p>	<p>Department of Health, Office of Mental Health</p> <p>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. Implementation is progressing and on target.</p>

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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) Completed – see earlier Progress Reports for further information.
2.1.8	Develop a system to monitor evictions due to anti social behaviour to identify where they have been racially motivated.	This recommendation will be referred to the Office of Citizenship and Multicultural Interests for their consideration in developing the strategy.	Department of the Premier and Cabinet (DPC) DHW records data on evictions and establishes where tenants have been evicted for anti-social behaviour. The Equal Opportunity Commission (EOC) 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. The EOC has established a "Section 80 Implementation and Monitoring Committee" to oversee the implementation of recommendations in the "Finding a Place" report. A broad range of Government, non Government and community members are represented.

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2.1.9	Develop living skills as part of the course for students at risk. The Curriculum Council in consultation with the Youth Affairs Council of WA, develop an appropriate curriculum on living skills for students at risk.	The development of appropriate curriculum will involve stakeholders including the DoE and YACWA. DoE would then deliver this through a range of strategies including virtual learning and alternative programs.	Department of Education (DoE) During 2004-05 the Curriculum Council has continued the development of all new courses. The timing for implementation of the new courses was however amended so that implementation of some courses may now be later than originally planned, that is instead of 2007 implementation may now be 2008. Students at risk will be able to access a curriculum focused on living skills with the program made up of units from a number of these courses (depending on student needs). Their program might include units from the English course that will provide essential communication skills; units from the Career and Enterprise course that will provide work related skills, units related to health and well being from the Health Studies and/or Children, Family and Community course.

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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 – see earlier Progress reports for further details.
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) Completed – see earlier Progress Reports for details.

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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 \$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>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. 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> commenced implementation in 2004/05. 2. This allocation will now be used to establish transition services in Perth, Fremantle and Armadale/Gosnells to support 50 homeless people with a mental illness to move into permanent accommodation Two surveys have been completed-to inform planning. One on the needs of people with a mental illness in emergency accommodation, and a second to capture the mental health population residing long term in SAAP services. The final report analysing the survey data is being printed. For further details see the December 2004 Progress Report. 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. The services will initially be developed in Perth and

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			Fremantle, with the Armadale service to be a second stage of development. Sites for the services are still being sourced. The DOH will tender the initiative as a service without the residential component towards the end of 2005.
2.2.4	The Department of Justice develops 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>Completed: 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 • Agencies for South West Accommodation – South West region.

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2.2.5	The Department of Justice provides more supported accommodation for prisoners leaving gaol and detention. This would require additional resources to provide to community organisations providing such services.	<p>The Government supports initiatives designed to assist ex-prisoners in stabilising their lifestyle as soon as possible after release and will provide \$340 000 annually to provide more supported accommodation for adult prisoners and young offender prisoners exiting the justice system. This decreases the risk of homelessness and re-offending.</p> <p>DoJ and DHW will work together to develop improved processes to assist prisoners accessing housing on release from prison. DHW will provide additional accommodation that is dedicated to the needs of these people</p>	<p>Department of Justice (DoJ) Department of Housing and Works (DHW)</p> <p>As of 30 June 2005 102 ex-offenders have been supported and housed under the Transitional Accommodation Supported Service (TASS) Program. DHW is providing 42 units of accommodation.</p> <p>Completed: Refer December 2004 Progress Report for details.</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>Implemented: At any one time around 3,300 people with disabilities are supported through DSC funding to live independently.</p> <p>The following shows the total funds provided for accommodation support each year since 2002/03 and the numbers people newly accessing the program:</p> <p>2002/03 - \$3.4 million – 92 additional people 2003/04 - \$4.025 million – 103 additional people 2004/05 - \$5.7 million – 126 additional people 2005/006 – \$7.4 million has been allocated to support another 134 people</p> <p>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 interim aged care facilities for Care</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 COAG in December 2002. Ageing issues will become a</p>

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		Awaiting Placement Program purposes over the next four years.	<p>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> Refer to December 2004 report for background. The TCS pilot has been extended into 2005.</p> <p><u>Intermittent Care Service (ICS) in Western Australia</u> Refer to December 2004 report for background. Commenced operating in February 2005, expected completion date is June 2006.</p> <p><u>Care Awaiting Placement (CAP)</u> Ongoing. Refer to December 2004 report for background.</p>
2.3.3	Increase the aged care options available to Indigenous aged people living in remote communities and regional areas. Establish joint programs including the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission, Housing and Works and Commonwealth Aged Care to develop safe supported housing particularly for elderly Indigenous people within their communities.	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>Department of Health (DoH)</p> <p>Ongoing. The HACC Program considers service development opportunities that target services to Aboriginal people in its annual funding rounds.</p> <p>Refer to December 2004 Progress Report for background.</p>

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2.3.4 & 2.3.6	<p>Increase the number of small scale supported accommodation options for people with mental illness and/or acquired brain injury.</p> <p>Develop more independent living accommodation options which have appropriate stock and appropriate support services available to people with mental illness and/or acquired brain injury.</p>	<p>DoH's commitment to a range of supported accommodation services is articulated in the policy <i>Supported Community Living for People with Psychiatric Disability – Living in the Community</i>. This policy indicates the philosophy and future directions for the supported community living program for Western Australians with a mental illness.</p> <p>Supported community living services will be expanded through the provision of an additional \$4.0 million over four years. In addition, \$2.6 million will expand support services for families throughout the State over four years.</p> <p>DHW currently provides a minimum of 120 units (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> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Three of the four locations for the Community Options 100 group homes have been confirmed as Graylands, Osborne Park and Kelmscott. The plans for the Kelmscott group home are in the final stages of approval to progress to the construction phase. 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. 3. Under current partnerships with the Department of Health there have been in excess of 540 properties provided for people with a mental illness since the program's inception in 1995. Expansion of the Independent Living Program 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). The procurement process to distribute this funding in 2005/06 has commenced. <p>See also initiative 2.2.3.</p> <p>See December 2004 report for further information.</p>

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2.3.5	Reduce the possibility of homelessness for all newly arrived migrants and refugees regardless of their visa status through negotiation with the Commonwealth to minimise overcrowding caused by people unable to obtain appropriate housing.	<p>Commonwealth has primary responsibility in the area of settlement services.</p> <p>People on Temporary Protection Visas are able to access bond assistance to assist them in moving into housing in the private rental market through DHW. They are eligible to register their interest on the public housing waiting list.</p> <p>DCD is directly involved in the provision of services to unaccompanied refugee minors and is currently renegotiating 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>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>
2.3.7	Increase the availability of long term supported housing for young people.	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	<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 in December 2004 Progress Report for details.</p>

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		<p>assist families in managing and to avoid children and young people being placed in care or young people forced to move out of home. The Department will continue to pursue strategies to reduce the numbers of children and young people moving into care.</p>	<p>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	<p>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>	<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> <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). (see also 2.2.5 & 2.3.5)</p>

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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. See previous December 2004 Progress Report for further details.</p> <p>New and ongoing policies/projects since December 2004:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The SAAP Protocols Project is currently revising the protocol between Mental Health and SAAP Services. • DoH has completed research to determine the accommodation support needs of homeless people with mental health conditions. • DHW has appointed a project officer to progress work initiated through the Indigenous Homelessness Steering Committee and the working party. Further information is at 2.4.1.2. • 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.

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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). • Under the Mental Health Housing Strategy MOU between DHW & DOH several supported accommodation options are to be provided in key metropolitan centres to support people who have mental illness and may be homeless or at risk of homelessness.
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 Indigenous Homelessness Steering Committee (IHSC) and Working Party established in 2004 have developed a Strategic Plan identifying priority areas for addressing Indigenous Homelessness. See December 2004 Progress Report for details.</p> <p>The Steering Committee and Working Party have now been dismantled and an Indigenous policy officer has been employed by DHW to continue the foundation work that was undertaken by the Indigenous Homelessness Working Party. The Working Party's contribution has been greatly appreciated by the</p>

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			<p>Aboriginal Housing and Infrastructure Council.</p> <p>Derbarl Yerrigan Health Services was approached regarding the possibility of selling Boomerang House to DHW for use as a hostel but have decided to use the property as a facility for clients requiring Mental Health Services.</p> <p>DHW has approved a proposal by AHID to construct an Indigenous Visitors Temporary Accommodation service (IVTA) in Hamilton Hill. Holton Connor Architects and Planners have provided a proposed IVTA design. The IVTA will provide accommodation for Indigenous people visiting the metropolitan area for medical reasons and those "at risk" of becoming homeless. The IVTA will provide for up to 24 residents. The site to be utilised is an Aboriginal Lands Trust Estate. Approval has been given by ALT to utilise the site for the IVTA. This is conditional to planning approval by the City of Cockburn.</p> <p>Project partners include Aboriginal Hostels Ltd, Noongar Mia Mia, Department of Indigenous Affairs (ALT) and Aboriginal Housing and Infrastructure Council.</p> <p>DHW has agreed to assist Aboriginal Hostels Limited in their provision of an Aboriginal nursing home in Kenwick. DHW is considering options to provide land for the project.</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.
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: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Great Mates was the successful applicant for the Fremantle youth crisis accommodation service. The service opened in January 2003 in temporary premises 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 is almost complete. Application for planning approval has been lodged and Council is seeking community comment. Council will consider the application at their next meeting in July. 2. Nirrumbuk Aboriginal Corporation has been selected to provide the Broome youth accommodation service. DHW has agreed to provide up to a maximum of 6 units under its supported housing program. As of 30 June, 2005, nine adults and two children were accommodated. Tenancies are assessed after a three month period and if satisfactory become mainstream tenants.

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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.	<p>Department for Community Development (DCD)</p> <p>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.</p> <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. 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.</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 30 June 2005, 1,318 people contacted the Homeless Helpline on 1,601 occasions. Of these 395 people were literally without shelter at the time of call. 923 people had temporary accommodation but no home of their own. • 240 people were referred to overnight vacancies in crisis accommodation. • 1,219 people were advised to apply for bond assistance of which 667 were issued with bond assistance loans. Of these 135 Indigenous clients were issued with a Bond Assistance Loan. • 122 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> <p>In May 2004 DHW contracted Ruah Community Services to assist homeless clients who need support in private rental accommodation. The Ruah Tenancy Support Service engages with the client prior to taking</p>

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			<p>occupation, works intensively with the tenant for a minimum of 3 months and maintains liaison with the real estate agent and the Homeless Helpline. Where spare capacity exists, Ruah can act as a back up SHAP service for Homeswest tenancies. As at 30 June 2005 a total of 55 households have been registered with Ruah Tenancy Support.</p>
2.4.2.3	<p>Develop a demonstration project to include adequate facilities such as ablution blocks with showers, cooking facilities, and shelter.</p>	<p>The City of Perth and the Town of Port Hedland have expressed an interest in trialing such projects. The City proposal will be referred to the Indigenous Affairs Northbridge Priority Project Working Group to determine whether such a facility can contribute to addressing the complex issues surrounding Aboriginal people in the inner city.</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>Department of Indigenous Affairs (DIA)</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.</p> <p>The majority (11) of the long term homeless people have been assisted into accommodation or to return to their communities. A few are still to be accommodated. Work has been undertaken to investigate the options for a demonstration project but so far no suitable land has been identified.</p> <p>The Yarri Road Camp and the Zone 6 Camp in Kalgoorlie Boulder continue to be maintained for visitors from outlying communities. These camps are specifically designed to provide the basic needs of Indigenous people and were constructed in consultation with Indigenous community leaders. The camps are provided with potable water, wash troughs, open accommodation huts and drop toilet facilities. The City provides a weekly refuse removal</p>

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			<p>service. An Aboriginal Liaison Officer:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oversees maintenance requirements at the camps; • Provides a communication link between the City, Indigenous agencies, Police and community health workers; and • Reports to management and committees on Indigenous issues.
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 of Housing and Works building appropriate one and two bedroom units and local youth services providing minimal support. Begin with a demonstration project to assess viability.	Cyril Jackson Senior Campus has commenced planning in partnership with DHW, DoE and the Eastern Metropolitan Community Housing Association Inc. Under this arrangement DoE would provide the land, DHW would provide the buildings and EMCHA would provide property and tenancy management.	<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> <p>The construction of these units has commenced and is 76% completed. The units will house 13 youth and will reach completion before December 2005.</p>

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2.4.3	Specialist services to assist people who are homeless		
2.4.3.1	Provide additional sobering up shelters for Indigenous people in Perth City and other regional areas where such services are not available.	The State has earmarked funding for proposed initiatives in the alcohol and substance misuse area next financial year, including sobering up shelters. This will complement the \$350 000 pa earmarked by the Commonwealth for sobering up shelters for the next five years. The Government will also work with ATSIC about a specific proposal for a sobering-up shelter in inner city Perth.	<p>Department of Health, Drug and Alcohol Office (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. The new centres are located in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perth (Karlina - Anawim Women's Refuge) • Midland • Wyndham • Geraldton <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 – see previous Progress reports for details. 3. Completed – see previous Progress reports for details. <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 was completed in early 2005. The study found services are addressing the needs of children but have insufficient capacity to fully meet them. The report identified a number of areas of concern, especially in rural and remote areas. The report will be considered by the July 2005 meeting of the DCD Executive.</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>Completed – see previous Progress reports for details.</p> <p>The Street Doctor program has been expanded and now consists of Mobile Access vans which operate in Perth inner city, Swan Hills and Fremantle.</p> <p>See December 2004 Progress Report for details.</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.	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. 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>Department of Health (DoH) – HACC</p> <p>A service for homeless HACC clients commenced in April 2004. The service is located in Armadale and provides a centre based day care, personal care and social support services specifically targeting homeless HACC clients in the south east metropolitan area. The service is being accessed by people of ATSI background.</p> <p>Completed: See December 2004 Progress Report for details.</p>

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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 is investigating the need and feasibility of establishing a furniture bank or scheme. The report is due for completion in late 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.	<p>Western Power, AlintaGas and the Water Corporation already provide customers who are having difficulty in paying current bills with flexible payment options.</p> <p>Western Power contributes \$30 000 annually to an emergency relief fund administered by WACOSS to help people in financial difficulties, such as being unable to pay their electricity bill.</p>	<p>The Government made no commitment to this recommendation. However Western Power has increased its contribution to the Power Assist program from \$30,000 pa to \$50,000 pa.</p> <p>See earlier Progress Reports for further information.</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>Completed – see earlier reports for details.</p> <p style="color: red;">Consultants Estill & Associates have been contracted to conduct and 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. The evaluation is expected to be completed in late 2005.</p>
3.1.2	Ensure that there are structural links between the Implementation Committee and the Indigenous Affairs Advisory Committee to ensure that strategies to enable the mapping of need and responses within Indigenous communities are integral to implementation.	DIA will ensure that all relevant business arising in the Homelessness Monitoring Committee is readily available to the Indigenous Affairs Advisory Committee.	<p>Department of the Premier and Cabinet (DPC), and Department of Indigenous Affairs (DIA)</p> <p style="color: red;">DIA is now represented on the State Homelessness Strategy Monitoring Committee. There are links to the Gordon Inquiry Initiative through the DIA representative.</p>
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.	<p>Department of the Premier and Cabinet (DPC)</p> <p>Officers from Department of Housing and Works (DHW) and Department for Community Development (DCD) met and agreed that better links needed to be</p>

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			<p>established between relevant existing Commonwealth/State agreements. This was considered during the review of the Commonwealth/State Housing Agreement (CSHA).</p> <p>DCD advises the Supported Accommodation Assistance Program (SAAP) National Co-ordination and Development Committee is investigating "International 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>

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3.3	Community Education		
3.3.1	Develop an information strategy to encourage debate and discussion on issues around homelessness.	With WACOSS and the community, the Government will continue to ensure a high level of public debate and discussion around issues affecting the most vulnerable people in our community.	<p>Department of the Premier and Cabinet (DPC)</p> <p>Since the last Progress Report in December 2004 government agencies have participated in the following initiatives to promote public debate on homelessness:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The following government agencies were represented at a planning day held by the Indigenous Homelessness Working Party in February 2005: Department's of Health, Housing and Works, Community Development, Immigration, Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs, Aboriginal Lands Trust, and Aboriginal Hostels Limited. • DOH and DCD assisted worked with the Youth Affairs Council of WA and the Western Australian Association for Mental Health to conduct a "Youth Housing and Mental Health Forum" in April 2005. The forum was well attended by a cross section of agencies working with young people. The issues identified at the forum were presented to a follow up forum in June 2005. • In May 2005 officers from DCD, DHW, and DOJ participated in a homelessness forum run by the Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute (AHURI) Western Australian branch. Non Government organisations and representative groups also participated. The forum was well attended by over 100 sector workers. <p>See earlier reports for details of initiatives prior to December 2004.</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>The following work has been undertaken since December 2004 relating to the scale of homelessness for different populations in Western Australia:</p> <p>Preliminary work has commenced between the Supported Accommodation Assistance Program National Coordination and Development Group's Data Sub Committee and the Australian Bureau of Statistics regarding the collection of homelessness data in to 2006 population census.</p> <p>See earlier reports for details of papers published prior to December 2004.</p>
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>

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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. Consideration is being given to developing a range of multi-lateral budget initiatives.</p> <p>The State Indigenous Strategy that has been developed will become a pilot multilateral project.</p> <p>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.</p>
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	<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>

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		<p>will come into effect from 1 July 2002. These new arrangements will recognise the partnership between the community and the Government in the provision of services.</p>	<p>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>A standard grant agreement was developed in early 2005 for use by all Government agencies.</p> <p>The Government established a working party to develop 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>