

**Progress Report on the Implementation of the Government's Response to the WA State Homelessness Taskforce  
As at 31 December 2002**

**Note: Developments since the previous update (October 2002) are indicated in red.**

No	Recommendation Summary	Summary of Government Commitments  For full text see The Government's Response to the Report of the Homelessness Taskforce: <u>'Putting People First'</u>	Implementation Status
<b>1</b>	<b>ACCESS TO APPROPRIATE AND AFFORDABLE ACCOMMODATION</b>		
<b>1.1</b>	<b>State housing strategy to include the development and retention of affordable housing</b>		
1.1.1	Ensure the State Housing Strategy includes proposals for increasing the supply of affordable housing.	<i>Housing Strategy WA</i> will be put to consultation by October 2002. The needs of Indigenous people, CALD and people with disabilities will be given a high priority.	Department of Housing and Works (DHW)  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> . The draft strategy is to be released early in 2003 and will include strategies for increasing the supply of affordable housing.
1.1.2	Ensure the State Housing Strategy includes a continuum of housing types in all locations to promote community sustainability.	The Housing Strategy will address needs in rural and remote areas as well as metropolitan. It will encourage construction that uses sustainability principles. <i>WACOSS Housing and Sustainable Communities Indicators</i> will be used. The <i>New Living Program</i> will continue.	Department of Housing and Works (DHW)  An ageing population and an increasing number of 1 and 2 person households will mean reduced demand for 4+2 houses and the need for better allocation of land to meet the need for grouped houses. <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.

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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><i>The Housing Strategy WA will make a recommendation on this matter, however its implementation is subject to gaining the cooperation of other agencies with identifiable surplus land.</i></p> <p><i>An interdepartmental committee, established by the Department of the Premier and Cabinet to dispose of 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.</i></p>

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<b>1.2</b>	<b>Increase Government funding for social housing</b>		
1.2.1	The Taskforce considers that a key underlying principle of the Commonwealth State Housing Agreement (CSHA) is to have a mandate to address homelessness.	When negotiating the next <i>Commonwealth State Housing Agreement</i> , the Government will ensure that all groups in society, including people who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless, will have their housing needs addressed.	Department of Housing and Works (DHW)  The Commonwealth is currently drafting the multilateral agreement for the next <i>Commonwealth State Housing Agreement</i> for comment by States. DHW will endeavour to ensure that the principles for the new agreement cover the housing needs of all vulnerable groups in the community.
1.2.2	The Taskforce supports the retention and enhancement of the CHSA with a clear focus on homelessness.	To give certainty to the States on future funding, all parties are seeking to finalise a new Commonwealth State Housing Agreement by July 2002.	Department of Housing and Works (DHW)  The Commonwealth made an offer of a five-year agreement in October 2002 and State Cabinet has agreed that the Minister for Housing should continue negotiating a new agreement on the basis of the Commonwealth offer.
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. States are developing a strategy to have the Commonwealth continue GST compensation.

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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) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ \$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; All 60 houses have been allocated of which four tenants have vacated and been replaced.</li> <li>▪ \$5.5m has been included for Special Needs funding for the 65 units to be allocated through the Community Housing Branch. Further information is provided at items 2.2.5 and 2.3.5.</li> </ul>

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1.2.5	The State to negotiate with the Commonwealth for an increase in funding for Aboriginal housing.	The State is also negotiating an innovative bi-lateral housing infrastructure agreement with Commonwealth through ATSIC worth \$80m. It is expected that agreement will be reached for a 1 July 2002 start.	<p>Department of Housing and Works (DHW) Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission (ATSIC)</p> <p>The State Government has signed a Housing and Infrastructure Agreement with the Commonwealth and ATSIC which commits the parties to the pooling of funds to be administered by the AHIU from July 2002 to June 2007.</p> <p>State Treasury has increased its annual funding commitment from \$13.5M per year to \$17M per year for the term of the Agreement.</p> <p><b>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 Aboriginal Housing Infrastructure Unit, and utilised by ATSIC, Commonwealth and the State and applied under the Indigenous Housing Agreement to maintain a viable outcome in improving housing and infrastructure for Aboriginal People.</b></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 initiatives to increase the supply of affordable housing in WA.</p>

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<b>1.3</b>	<b>Broaden opportunities for increasing the amount, durability and type of affordable housing</b>		
1.3.1	Increase the use of durable building materials and fittings in social housing.	DHW's <i>Management Support Program</i> and its <i>Remote Village Construction Program</i> will continue to work towards improving the state of housing in remote Indigenous communities.	<p>Department of Housing and Works (DHW)</p> <p>The Department of Housing and Works supports the use of durable building materials. The Department anticipates increasing its construction program from 75 to approximately 90 durable dwellings in 2002/03 and a review of their effectiveness will be undertaken in 2003/04.</p> <p>The following are either "full" or "partial" durable -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Fund 6 remote communities - 62 dwellings - Year to date 17 new houses have been commenced and 41 new houses completed.</li> <li>▪ Fund 6 urban – Broome 6, Hedland 5, Geraldton 7</li> <li>▪ Fund 1 - Halls Creek 6, Wyndham 2, Roebourne 2</li> </ul> <p>These numbers are proposed, and may alter as the year progresses.</p>

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

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1.3.2 <i>Cont</i>	<p>The Office of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs and the Department of Housing and Works through the Aboriginal Housing and Infrastructure Unit are signatories to a code of practice for housing and environmental infrastructure development in Aboriginal communities in WA.</p> <p>The code stipulates a commitment to quality standards in Indigenous communities. The situation will be monitored to ensure requirements of the code are met on an ongoing basis. <b>The AHIU Remote Communities Program and Budget for 2001/02 (\$26.578 million) and 2002/03 (\$46.041 million) are as follows. Note: Budget for 2001/02 amended (previously reported as \$23.94 million).</b></p>		
<b>Program</b>		<b>2001/2002 ACTUAL</b>	<b>2002/2003 PLANNED* (figures adjusted quarterly to meet changing budget requirements – previously stated as \$49.350M)</b>
Village (Remote) Construction		\$7.126 (53 commencements and 26 completions)	\$10.600 (62 commencements and 68 completions)
Remote Area Essential Services Program (RAESP) <sup>i</sup>		\$7.722	\$ 7.400
Aboriginal Community Strategic Investment Program (ACSIP)		\$4.922	\$ 5.600
TRRP (Town Reserves)		\$0.158	\$ 0.650
MSP/MIP Management Support/excludes admin and vehicles		\$6.275	\$ 7.081
Village Maintenance		\$0.305	\$ 0.850
ATSIC CHIP <sup>ii</sup>		N/A	\$ 11.000
Other <sup>iii</sup>		0.070	\$ 2.86
<b>TOTAL</b>  <small>j including RAESP housing maintenance, ii approx 40 units commenced, iii Roebourne Enhancement Scheme and FHFBH. * Budget reduced as other line items removed from previous budget as they do not fall under the category of Capital Works.</small>		<b>\$26.578</b>	<b>\$46.041</b>

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1.3.3	Increasing Aboriginal management to 18% of urban community housing stock.	DHW will encourage an increase in the management of community housing by Indigenous groups by providing infrastructure support and training. CHCWA will be the main vehicle for assisting Indigenous groups to acquire the necessary skills to manage community housing.	<p>Department of Housing and Works (DHW)</p> <p>Discussions have occurred with the newly formed Noongar Mia Mia Pty Ltd, a housing company established under the auspices of ATSIC, with a view to encouraging and supporting its growth. Noongar Mia Mia has been formed on the basis of becoming a specialist Indigenous housing provider and will be making application this year for both capital and infrastructure funding under the Community Housing Program.</p> <p><i>The Homeless Helpline has met with ATSIC, including Noongar Mia Mia over the future of the four Aboriginal Land Trust hostels.</i></p> <p><i>The level of community housing stock managed by Indigenous organisations is 75 properties or 2.02 of total stock, there are also a further 25 properties managed by non-Indigenous organisations with their target group being Indigenous people. 2.75% of community housing stock has Indigenous people as their main target group. The number of community organisations that house Indigenous people as their target group is 11 or 4.6%. (238 organisations in total)</i></p> <p><i>NOTE: Joint Venture, Community Housing, Crisis Accommodation, and Community Disability Housing Program. The table includes on the number and percentage of organisations who have applied for funding to assist Aboriginal people,. Aboriginal people may also be included in other target groups who receive funding. Based on 62% response rate for CAP on and 56% for all Community Housing Programs</i></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>As at 30 June 2002, 11 (4.6%) of community organisations target Aboriginal People.</p> <p>One of the difficulties in reporting this information is the distinct lack of data available from community housing providers on their tenancy profiles.</p> <p>The response rate to the annual community housing survey as at 30 Jun 2002 is 78.06%. The survey asked housing providers to identify their tenant profile, the information supplied is limited by the response rate, however 41% of properties managed by those organisations that responded, currently house Indigenous people.</p>

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<b>1.4</b>	<b>Optimise the access and use of existing housing for people low incomes</b>		
1.4.1	Develop a system to enable data matching of tenants on waiting lists for long term community housing and public housing. One off project.	DHW will develop the data system in conjunction with CHCWA, as part of the <i>Community Housing Strategic Plan</i> that is due for completion by 31 December 2002.	<p>Department of Housing and Works (DHW)</p> <p>While some preliminary discussions have occurred with the community housing sector <b>in this regard, much more work is yet to be done. The Community Housing Coalition of WA has been asked to pursue this as a priority during the 2002/03 year.</b></p> <p><b>The development of a data matching system has been included in the community housing strategic plan that is to be considered for approval by the Board at their February meeting.</b></p> <p>Other related strategies being pursued include improving the access of Aboriginal people to community housing properties, encouraging increased financial contributions from non-Government organisations and sharing tenancy allocation rights in these housing projects.</p>

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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.	<p>Department of Housing and Works (DHW), and Department for Community Development (DCD)</p> <p><b>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.</b></p> <p><b>The original draft policy has been revised and is now in operation.</b></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"> <li>▪ Completed Bond Assistance loan levels were increased on March 1 2002 to the current market median rent as set in 2000. A review will be carried out 12 months.</li> <li>▪ Ingoing fees (letting fees and rent in advance) are granted on "need only" basis, and are added to the bond loan amount. <b>For the period 1 July 02 to 31 December 2002, 45 homeless clients have been assisted with a total of \$32,815 comprising of bond assistance loan \$20,465, rent in advance \$10,315 and letting fee \$2035.</b></li> <li>▪ Since the commencement of the Homeless Help Line, <b>497</b> bond loans have been issued to assist people who have approached the Help Line. This includes <b>105</b> bond loans to Indigenous clients.</li> <li>▪ <b>The new total of 497 is an increase of 84 loans on the last report (413)</b></li> <li>▪ <b>7725 Bond Assistance Loans have been approved this financial year to the value of \$3,018,170.23. The average value of each loan is \$390.70.</b></li> </ul>

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1.4.4	Examine options for incentives for private landlords to accommodate people on low incomes.	See Below.	<p>Department of Housing and Works (DHW)</p> <p>Protocols have been developed for the referral of properties and clients between Perth Management Services and DHW. Two houses in Maddington and Queens Park have been allocated. Clients have been screened by DHW and referred for SHAP assistance. A further two houses and clients are currently being considered.</p> <p>Discussions have taken place with Centrelink to encourage greater participation by clients and real estate agents in Centrelink's <i>Centrepay</i> scheme, which enables private tenants to have their rent deducted from their Centrelink benefit direct to the agent. There is some reluctance by agents to participate in <i>Centrepay</i>, due to the transaction cost of \$1.01 per which the owner or agent must absorb.</p> <p>The 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 and staff training.</p>

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1.4.4 cont.			<p>A meeting between DCD, DHW and REIWA has taken place to discuss Youth Housing options.</p> <p>Negotiations are under way with The Department of Planning and Infrastructure for DHW to access their surplus Government housing for use through the Homeless Help Line.</p> <p>DHW, through the Community Housing Branch, is in the early stages of negotiations with a private landlord and a Regional Housing Association for the provision of up to 30 rental properties to house people on low incomes.</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>In 2001/02 DHW has identified interested and eligible Aboriginal participants who wish to access the private rental market. It is intended in the later half of 2002/03 to introduce these participants through a non-profit service provider to private Real Estate Agents in the areas of choice of many of these participants</p> <p>A meeting between DCD, DHW and REIWA has taken place to discuss Youth Housing options.</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 Act. The Department of Consumer and Employment Protection (DOCEP) received their report on Thursday 22 August 2002.</p> <p>DOCEP is preparing a briefing for the Minister for Consumer and Employment Protection on the recommendations arising out of that review. The Minister has indicated that once he has had the opportunity to consider the report, he intends to table it in Parliament and release it for public comment.</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>

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

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1.5.2	The State to negotiate with the Commonwealth to have the level of income support paid to a young person living independently raised to the adult level.	And 1.5.1. Through the Community Services Ministers Advisory Council, there are ongoing discussions with other states, Territories and the Commonwealth. A recent development has been the establishment of a Working Group to examine the impact of the Commonwealth Strategy Australians Working Together. DCD will raise these issues in these forums and directly with the Commonwealth Minister for Family and Community Services.	Department of the Premier and Cabinet, (DPC) and Department for Community Development (DCD)  DCD will continue to raise this issue in the Community Services Ministers Advisory Committee (CSMAC) Welfare Reform Working Group.
1.5.3	The State to ask the Commonwealth to urgently address the negative impact of the practice of 'breaching' on creating homelessness.	The State Government will use the current mechanisms for Commonwealth State discussions to raise issues where vulnerable people are put at housing risk due to income support penalties.	Department of the Premier and Cabinet, (DPC) and Department for Community Development (DCD)  DCD has raised this issue at meetings with Centrelink staff.  Centrelink have developed a <i>Breaching Decision Improvement Plan</i> to develop and test changes to the breaching policy. Breaches cannot be imposed without contact with the customer. If client fails to contact can use temporary suspension instead to get the client to contact Centrelink and avoid breach.  The Government will continue to monitor this.

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

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2.1.2	Implement new Support and Advocacy Services for people in social and private rental.	\$1 million in the first year rising to \$2 million annually to boost assistance to private and public sector tenants to help keep them housed. New DCD Program and DHW's Supported Housing Assistance Program.	<p>Department for Community Development (DCD) Department of Housing and Works (DHW)</p> <p><u>Support for People in Social Housing</u> DHW has the lead role in this initiative. An additional \$0.5 million (recurrent) has been provided for more Supported Housing Assistance Program (SHAP) services in 2002/03, rising to \$1m recurrent from 2003/04, bringing total SHAP funding to \$2.0 million per annum. Expressions of Interest have been sought from existing SHAP providers to increase services.</p> <p><u>Support for People in Private Rental</u> DCD has the lead role with this initiative. New funding of \$0.5 million in 2002/03 rising to \$1m recurrent from 2003/04 has been provided for Support and Advocacy Services for People in Private Rental Accommodation (including those in Regional Community Housing Association properties).</p> <p>Eight new services were advertised for RFP on 16 November 2002. Closing date for applications is 10 January 2002. Five of the services will be located in the metropolitan area, and one each in Mandurah, Busselton and Geraldton. Further discussions are taking place to develop another service targeting people from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse backgrounds. This service will operate in the metro area.</p>

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**Note: Developments since the previous update (October 2002) are indicated in red.**

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2.1.3	Develop practical in home support services to assist people in gaining the skills to manage in a home. These services to be developed with the Aboriginal communities and migrant communities where appropriate.	\$150 000 through the Government's Family Strength program is committed for the development of two services for Indigenous families.	Department for Community Development (DCD)  DCD has worked closely with other Government Departments with an interest in Aboriginal housing and has consulted the Local Government Association to develop specifications and identify the most appropriate locations for the new services. <b>Service specifications have been developed and work is progressing to establish new services. Locations will be announced in February 2003.</b>
2.1.4	Develop a garden maintenance program available to people in public housing, payment through rental payments.	DoJ and DHW will investigate the feasibility of developing a service provided by people on community based offender orders to people in public housing.  DHW will also investigate the feasibility of working with the Commonwealth to develop Work for Dole initiatives in this area.	Department of Housing and Works (DHW) and Department of Justice (DoJ)  <b>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. A pilot program to be 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 fulfil their obligations to the court and community, but also enhance their work and social skills.</b>  <b>DOJ is investigating work opportunities with community housing associations</b>

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2.1.5	Increase the Community Drug Teams ability to provide immediate support to people in supported accommodation services, in lodging/boarding houses and where the people are staying.	Two youth SAAP services have funds for a drug support worker – 3 more will be funded through additional \$150,000 provided in response to the Drug Summit.  A further drug support worker will be funded through the Drug and Alcohol office.	Department of Health, Drug and Alcohol Office (DAO)  Drug and alcohol counsellors have begun in Rockingham and Fremantle Youth accommodation services.  The Armadale service has been advertised for providers and the D&A counsellor will start then.  A worker will also soon be located at the Victoria Park youth accommodation service.
2.1.6	Increase the level of immediate clinical support for people with mental illness in all areas by increasing the capacity of the local Mental Health Teams to meet the demand of people in need.	\$500 000 in 2002/03 rising to \$800 000 to establish a new south metro service for vulnerable youth with mental health problems.	Department of Health, Office of Mental Health  Discussions have commenced and an in principle agreement has been reached with the South Metro Health Service to develop this new youth service. The service will have a strong focus on working with the Supported Accommodation Assistance Program (SAAP) service sector.  It is intended that a project officer will be employed by the South Metropolitan Mental Health Service to progress this initiative early in 2003.

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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	<p>Department for Community Development (DCD) and Department of Consumer and Employment Protection(DOCEP)</p> <p>\$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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 52 Financial Counselling services around the state have received a 15% increase in funding to assist families avoid eviction.</li> <li>• <b>A new service will be established in 2003 to provide specialist financial counselling to young people experiencing financial and debt related problems.</b></li> </ul>
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>The Equal Opportunity Commission has instigated an investigation into public housing provision to Aboriginal people in WA. The Office of Multicultural Interests has been asked to consider the issue of housing in their anti racism strategy.</p>

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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)  The Curriculum Council has scheduled the development of the living skills materials for 2004-2005. Trialling will then occur from 2005-2007 with the materials available for implementation from 2007 onwards. Both the Department of Education and the Youth Affairs Council of WA will be part of the consultation process.
<b>2.2 Leaving institutional and long term care</b>			
2.2.1	The Department for Community Development develops leaving care strategies for young people which include the development of independent living options and the development of living skills to manage.	1. Additional \$600 000 per year to support this group through the transition from State care to independent living. 2. New legislation to place child protection and community development into the contemporary environment. 3. The Government is working with the Commonwealth Government and other jurisdictions to implement the new <i>Transition to Independent Living Allowance (TILA)</i> .	Department for Community Development (DCD)  1. Three new leaving care services have been advertised for service providers, covering the majority of the state. <b>Successful applicants will be announced early in 2003.</b> 2. Draft legislation has been developed with input from young people in care. 3. <b>The Youth Protocol Working Party is assisting the Commonwealth to develop guidelines for the allocation of TILA funds. Non Government agencies that work with young people in care are represented on the working party.</b>

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2.2.2	The Department for Community Development ensures that case planning involving families where children are at risk, includes strategies designed to assist people in developing skills to manage in independent long term accommodation.	DCD will develop strategies to provide training opportunities to departmental and non-Government workers to address homelessness issues.	Department for Community Development (DCD)  DCD will establish a working party to develop training options.
2.2.3	Department of Health promotes and implements responsible discharge planning where people leave hospital care to long term stable accommodation, not being referred into immediate access crisis accommodation.	1. By June 2003, public mental health services throughout Western Australia are required to have a confirmed date set to review their compliance with <i>National Standards for Mental Health Service</i> standards. 2. The Government will provide \$160 000 in 2002/03 rising to \$260 000 to enable people leaving temporary and emergency non-Government services to receive active assistance and rehabilitation to enable them to remain in long-term accommodation.	Department of Health, Office of Mental Health  1. In progress. 2. A survey of the needs of people with a mental illness in emergency accommodation will be undertaken in 2002. A Request for Quotation will be advertised in October. The outcomes of the needs survey will be used to determine support and service models required to accommodate people in the 38 units allocated by the Department of Housing and Works (DHW.) 3. <b>Negotiations have commenced with DHW on accommodation types required.</b>

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2.2.4	The Department of Justice develop strategies to enhance release planning for people leaving prison with longer sentences.	DoJ has recently introduced the case management of prisoners. This process helps to prepare offenders for their release. No offenders are released on parole (or Work Release or Home Detention) without suitable and stable accommodation to go to.	Department of Justice (DoJ)  DoJ will closely manage those prisoners who are on life or indeterminate sentences through pre release programs. Re-entry support services will be developed. They will focus on nine key social exclusions factors such as; housing, employment, education and health, which are important for successful reintegration into the community.

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2.2.5	The Department of Justice provide more supported accommodation for prisoners leaving gaol and detention. This would require additional resources to provide to community organisations providing such services.	<p>\$340 000 annually to provide more supported accommodation for adult prisoners and young offender prisoners exiting the justice system.</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><b>A service model has been developed jointly with the DHW for a pilot project. Non government agencies will be contracted through an open competitive process to seek proposals to provide the required support. Services will assist clients maintain accommodation and develop and maintain skills required for daily living, improve personal and social interaction, and increase participation in community life. An Expression Of Interest process has begun. Working to have first available housing and associated support services in place by May 2003.</b></p> <p><b>The Department of Housing and Works will undertake property and tenancy management and maintenance of the housing allocated. DHW is ready to deliver housing once support is in place. Housing will be provided by DHW through regional housing stock and some construction, the Department has offered some land in the metropolitan area.</b></p> <p><b>Progressing the development of information kits for prisoners and organising DHW to provide on site prison visits to assist prisoners with applications for mainstream housing (to improve access to public housing for people leaving custody).</b></p>

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<b>2.3</b>	<b>Long term accommodation with support</b>		
2.3.1	The Disability Services Commission provides more support for people in long term supported accommodation	The Government allocated an additional \$2.67 million in 2001/02 and in 2002/03 will provide further growth funds of \$3.125 million. This will be allocated as part of the Disability Services Commission Combined Applications Process and should meet the recommended resourcing levels. The Government is renegotiating the Commonwealth State Disability Agreement.	Disability Services Commission  The Disability Services Commission has allocated \$3.4m for 02/03 an increase of \$.275m on the figure available at the compilation of the report. DSC has a well established process for allocating these funds and tracking the commencement of services. All funds will be committed by March 2003 and will assist 75 people with disabilities into long term supported accommodation.

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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 Awaiting Placement Program purposes over the next four years.</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</i> (COAG) at their November 2002 meeting.</p> <p>A report on ageing issues was presented to the meeting of 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>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><b>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.</b></p>

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2.3.3	Increase the aged care options available to Indigenous aged people living in remote communities and regional areas. Establish joint programs including the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission, Housing and Works and Commonwealth Aged Care to develop safe supported housing particularly for elderly Indigenous people within their communities.	Home and Community Care Program services were expanded by \$9.5 million in 2001/02. Services specifically for Indigenous people were among those expanded through this additional funding. These services are located in Mt Barker, Albany, Jigalong, the Western Desert and the Kimberley.	Department of Health (DoH)  Services are in operation. Additional funding will also be available in 2002/03 that will provide increased services to Indigenous aged people living in remote communities.  <b>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.</b>

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2.3.4 & 2.3.6	<p>Increase the number of small scale supported accommodation options for people with mental illness and/or acquired brain injury.</p> <p>Develop more independent living accommodation options which have appropriate stock and appropriate support services available to people with mental illness and/or acquired brain injury.</p>	<p>DoH's commitment to a range of supported accommodation services is articulated in the policy <i>Supported Community Living for People with Psychiatric Disability – Living in the Community</i>. This policy indicates the philosophy and future directions for the supported community living program for Western Australians with a mental illness.</p> <p>Supported community living services will be expanded through the provision of an additional \$4.0 million over four years. In addition, \$2.6 million will expand support services for families throughout the State over four years.</p> <p>DHW currently provides a minimum of 120 units per annum under its <i>Community Disability Housing Program</i> and has recently agreed to increase the number for the DSC from 60 to 65.</p>	<p>Department of Health (DoH)</p> <p>The <i>Community Options 100</i> project is developing small scale supported accommodation options for people who are currently unable to live outside a hospital setting.</p> <p>The Department of Housing and Works (DHW) is represented on a committee overseeing the implementation of the <i>Community Options 100</i> program of the Department of Health. \$1million per annum has been allocated for the next four years to assist people with mental illness to relocate from the institutional care environment of the Murchison Ward of Graylands Hospital into supported housing accommodation in the community.</p> <p>DHW will assist in providing the accommodation once decisions about household profiles and funding allocations have been finalised.</p> <p><b>The Office of Mental Health has completed a tendering and service expansion process to increase statewide support to carers by \$650,000 per annum.</b></p> <p>Additional properties for the <i>Independent Living Program</i> have been identified. A Request For Quotation will be advertised in October to find suitable non-Government providers to provide the support.</p>

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2.3.5	Reduce the possibility of homelessness for all newly arrived migrants and refugees regardless of their visa status through negotiation with the Commonwealth to minimise overcrowding caused by people unable to obtain appropriate housing.	<p>Commonwealth has primary responsibility in the area of settlement services.</p> <p>People on Temporary Protection Visas are able to access bond assistance to assist them in moving into housing in the private rental market through DHW. They are eligible to register their interest on the public housing waiting list.</p> <p>DCD is directly involved in the provision of services to unaccompanied refugee minors and is currently renegotiating an MOU with DIMIA.</p> <p>SAAP funds a number of services for migrant and refugee people who are homeless.</p>	<p>Department of Housing and Works (DHW) Department for Community Development (DCD)</p> <p>DCD and DHW will continue to work with the private rental sector to improve accessibility of housing for all sections of the community.</p> <p>The new Accommodation Assistance Service (see 2.4.2.1) and the new Support and Advocacy Services for People in Private Rental (see 2.1.2) will be available to assist newly arrived migrants.</p> <p><b>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. This commitment has been increased for 2002/03 with some 38 additional units to be provided to this client group with additional funding through the State Homeless Strategy.</b></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><b>DCD has a protocol with DHW to identify and support families at risk of losing accommodation.</b></p> <p>\$600,000 pa has been provided to DCD to establish three new Preparation for Leaving and Aftercare Services. See 2.2.1 for details.</p>
2.3.8	Department of Health and the Department of Justice implement headleasing arrangements in the private rental sector as a way of providing long term accommodation for people with mental illness and people leaving prisons.	<p>DoJ is investigating options with DHW for achieving better accommodation options for people leaving prison.</p> <p>The Departments of Health, Justice and Housing and Works will work together to develop flexible ways of providing accommodation and support for people in the private rental sector.</p>	<p>Department of Justice (DoJ) Department of Health (DoH) Department of Housing and Works (DHW)</p> <p>An ongoing interdepartmental working group has been established to progress this recommendation. <b>DOJ is to invite DOH onto this committee to discuss private rental support.</b></p>

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<b>2.4</b>	<b>Support for people who are homeless</b>		
2.4.1	Emergency supported accommodation		
2.4.1.1	Review policies and practices – to identify ways to progressively implement changes to improve the service system.	DCD, DoH and DoJ will work together to facilitate this process.	<p>Department of Justice (DoJ) Department of Health (DoH) Department for Community Development (DCD)</p> <p>DoJ has instigated a major review of services to assist prisoners re-entry to the community upon release.</p> <p>Protocols have been developed between DHW and DCD regarding SAAP services and access to housing.</p> <p>A close relationship exists between the Homeless Helpline and DCD to address individual client issues as they arise.</p>

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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>DHW is continuing to explore options for homeless Aboriginal people. <b>DHW has met with Dept of Indigenous Affairs, Noogar Mia Mia and DCD to discuss use of the four vacant Aboriginal LandsTrust Hostels.</b></p> <p>Approval has been given to including on the Goderich Street site, self contained 1b/r units for people who need limited support, using a SHAP service.</p> <p><b>The Community Housing Branch of the Department has recently purchased the Broometime Lodge in Broome for the housing of Indigenous people from the Kimberley who are receiving medical treatment.</b></p> <p><b>The Department has also negotiated the re-opening of the 8 units at the Park Villa complex in Kalgoorlie to house Indigenous people from the Kalgoorlie area.</b></p> <p><b>There are 11 units (one for caretaker) at the Brown Ave Complex in Kalgoorlie.</b></p> <p><b>Negotiations are underway with Derbarl Yirrigan Medical Service over the future of Boomerang house in Bulwer Street Highgate.</b></p> <p><b>DHW is developing a model for an Aboriginal Hostel in the inner city and meetings with Aboriginal Hostels are to be held in late January.</b></p>

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2.4.1.3	An increase in youth accommodation services in regional areas has been identified. Cost \$150,000 for this service.	DCD has \$2 million over four years to increase supported accommodation services for young people - Fremantle youth crisis service - \$350 000 pa and \$150,000 pa for a youth accommodation service in Broome.	<p>Department for Community Development (DCD)</p> <p>The Fremantle youth crisis accommodation service has been advertised and Great Mates was the successful applicant. <b>The service opened in January 2003 in premises in Spearwood.</b></p> <p><b>The Broome Youth Housing Working Party has completed their research. Work will now commence on developing the service specifications, in preparation for advertising a Request for Proposal.</b></p>
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><b>Communicare has been selected as the service provider, a facility in Calista has been identified for this service and negotiations have been finalised over the refurbishment of the property. The refurbishment is to be completed through the public tender process.</b></p> <p><b>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. A site has been selected and the development of schematic plans has commenced. Support for the men will be provided within the existing resources of SWAMS.</b></p>

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2.4.2	Developing services that assist people into long term accommodation with support		
2.4.2.1	The development of a bypass service as a joint Department for Community Development and Department of Housing and Works initiative, with the support service being provided by a non-Government organisation.	\$250,000 pa has been provided for a new support service to be established in Perth to fast track people who are newly homeless or about to become homeless into alternative accommodation.	Department for Community Development (DCD)  <b>Completed - Wesley Mission Perth was the successful applicant for this service and will call it <i>Wesley Homelink</i>. The service is expected to become operational April/May 2003.</b>
2.4.2.2	Continue the Homeless Helpline as part of the service system.	The Helpline is being redeveloped by DHW to continue to provide the link between DHW, private sector housing and the supported and emergency housing sector to improve the response to the homeless with a major focus on rough sleepers.	Department of Housing and Works (DHW)  DHW has formally incorporated the Homeless Help Line into the structure of the Department, ensuring its continuation.  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• From 1 July 2002 to 31 December 2002, 737 people contacted the Homeless Helpline. Of these 175 people were literally without shelter at the time of call. 562 people had temporary accommodation but no home of their own.</li> <li>• 173 people were referred to overnight vacancies in crisis accommodation.</li> <li>• 649 people were advised to apply for bond assistance of which 205 were issued with bond assistance loans. Of these 63 Indigenous clients were issued with a Bond Assistance Loan.</li> <li>• 97 people were housed in Homeswest rental accommodation.</li> </ul>

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2.4.2.3	Develop a demonstration project to include adequate facilities such as ablution blocks with showers, cooking facilities, and shelter.	<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>The Northbridge Priority Project Working Group emphasised the need to address the Indigenous youth issues on Friday and Saturday nights in Northbridge as a priority. The Working Group has also identified the need to address Aboriginal homelessness in inner Perth as its other priority. The NPP will continue to collaborate with Government, non-Government and Indigenous agencies over this issue.</p> <p><b>DHW is developing a model for an Aboriginal Hostel in the inner city and meetings with Aboriginal Hostels are to be held in late January.</b></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)</p> <p>Lotteries Commission</p> <p>Preliminary discussions have been held between Lotteries and DCD.</p>

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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 10 x 1 bedroom units for students at the Cyril Jackson High School in Ashfield.</p> <p>The accommodation will be built on Department of Education land, EMCHA will manage the tenancies and the Bassendean Youth Service will provide support to the students.</p> <p>Negotiations are continuing with the Department of Education and DHW is ready to proceed with calling tenders in early 2003.</p>

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**Note: Developments since the previous update (October 2002) are indicated in red.**

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
2.4.3	Specialist services to assist people who are homeless		
2.4.3.1	Provide additional sobering up shelters for Indigenous people in Perth City and other regional areas where such services are not available.	The State has earmarked funding for proposed initiatives in the alcohol and substance misuse area next financial year, including sobering up shelters. This will complement the \$350 000 pa earmarked by the Commonwealth for sobering up shelters for the next five years. The Government will also work with ATSIC about a specific proposal for a sobering-up shelter in inner city Perth.	<p>Department of Health, Drug and Alcohol Office</p> <p>There <b>are now</b> three sobering up centres servicing the Northbridge area. These are the centre in Wright St managed by the Salvation Army, <b>Karlimia, a new service for women operated by Anawim Women's Refuge was opened on 19 February 2003</b>, and the On Track service managed by Mission Australia specifically for young people who are intoxicated.</p> <p>A centre opened in Midland <b>in July 2002</b> and is managed by the Noongar Alcohol and Substance Abuse Service (NASAS).</p>

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2.4.3.2	Increase in services working with the children of people who are homeless as a result of domestic violence and other crises.	<p>The Government has allocated additional \$100,000 per year for initiatives to support children accompanying their mothers into women's refuges. This funding has been allocated to Yorgum to assist Indigenous children who have been affected by family violence. DCD is progressively seeking to establish:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Additional services in the country to work with children in women's refuges - \$225 000 in the first year rising to \$450 000 per year.</li> <li>2. Two support services at \$200 000 annually from July 2003 to work with dependent children in family supported accommodation services in the metropolitan area.</li> <li>3. One support service at \$200 000 annually from January 2003 for young parents focussing on parenting and the needs of their children where the parent/s are living in youth supported accommodation services in the metropolitan area.</li> </ol>	<p>Department for Community Development (DCD)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Funds have begun to be distributed to 18 refuges in rural and remote locations.</li> <li>2. Funds for these services will be available in July 2003. Work has commenced to develop a service model.</li> <li>3. These funds have been offered 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: Anglicare YES! Housing, Mercy Youth Services, Fremantle Community Youth Services, Mission Australia Youth Accommodation, and Victoria Park Youth Accommodation.</li> </ol>

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2.4.3.3	Expand the Street Doctor service.	The Street Doctor pilot has been extended until 30 June 2002 under the Innovative Health Services for Homeless Youth (IHSY) Program and is expected to continue at an annual funding level of \$90,000. Expanded services will be planned.	Department of Health (DoH)  The Street Doctor Pilot is continuing.
2.4.3.4	Investigate current day centres provided by local authorities for aged and disabled people for their applicability to a broader social group.	The Home and Community Care Program funds Local Government authorities to provide day centres. The aim of these day centres is to provide respite for carers and diversion therapy for the aged and disabled people attending. All aged or disabled people, including homeless people, are eligible to attend these day centres.	Department of Health (DoH) – HACC  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 attending. 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.

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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.	DCD will liaise with WACOSS and the Lotteries Commission to encourage the establishment of the Furniture Bank project.  DCD will continue to fund the WA No Interest Loans Network to provide interest-free loans for people who need furniture and whitegoods.	Department for Community Development (DCD) Lotteries Commission  Preliminary discussions have been held between DCD, WACOSS and the Lotteries Commission about establishing a pool of funds for a Furniture Bank for low-income people to access inexpensive and second hand furniture.  DCD is continuing to fund the No Interest Loans Scheme (NILS) through the Western Australian NILS Network.
2.4.4.2	50% bad debt discount scheme implemented to ensure connection of essential services where a person is moving from homelessness into accommodation.	An informal arrangement between Western Power and the DHW Homeless Helpline is already in place for assisting people into emergency housing.  The Office of Energy proposes that a debt discount scheme would need to be funded by Government and made available to customers of all utility service providers.	Department of Housing and Works (DHW)  To date Western Power has reported little demand for this service. However should a request for emergency assistance be made via the Homeless Helpline then WP will assist.  Western Power has strategies to assist people who owe them money. WP will set up a fortnightly repayment plan using Centrepay. Clients are reconnected once WP has full names of adult occupiers and date of birth.

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<b>3</b>	<b>ENHANCING IMPLEMENTATION</b>		
<b>3.1</b>	<b>Establish Implementation Committee</b>		
3.1.1	Establish implementation Committee responsible to the Cabinet Standing Committee on Social Policy.	The Government will establish a community and Government committee to monitor the implementation of these initiatives.	Department of the Premier and Cabinet (DPC)  A State Homelessness Strategy Monitoring Committee has been established. For details of the membership and Terms of Reference go to <a href="http://www.homeless.dhw.wa.gov.au">www.homeless.dhw.wa.gov.au</a>
3.1.2	Ensure that there are structural links between the Implementation Committee and the Indigenous Affairs Advisory Committee to ensure that strategies to enable the mapping of need and responses within Indigenous communities are integral to implementation.	DIA will ensure that all relevant business arising in the Homelessness Monitoring Committee is readily Available to the Indigenous Affairs Advisory Committee.	Department of the Premier and Cabinet (DPC), and Department of Indigenous Affairs (DIA)  The Department of Indigenous Affairs is being kept informed and consulted as appropriate through Ministerial and Departmental channels.  1. Links have been established with the Indigenous Affairs Advisory Committee (IAAC). 2. A Directors General group has been formed to oversee the implementation of the Government's response to the Gordon Inquiry. This group is a sub-committee of the Strategic Management Council and also represents the Directors General at the IAAC. 3. The Government has also made building sustainable Indigenous communities its highest Indigenous affairs priority.

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<b>3.2</b>	<b>Legislation</b>		
3.2.1	Investigate the merit of drafting legislation to ensure accommodation and support services for people who are homeless.	The Government will be investigating the merits of legislation in addressing issues of social inclusion including issues of homelessness.	Department of the Premier and Cabinet (DPC)  Currently under consideration by Department of Housing and Works (DHW) and Department for Community Development (DCD).  Officers from DCD and DHW will meet in early 2003 to review current applicable legislation.

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<b>3.3</b>	<b>Community Education</b>		
3.3.1	Develop an information strategy to encourage debate and discussion on issues around homelessness.	With WACOSS and the community, the Government will continue to ensure a high level of public debate and discussion around issues affecting the most vulnerable people in our community.	<p>Department of the Premier and Cabinet (DPC)</p> <p>Government agencies will participate in the following initiatives which will promote public debate on homelessness:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• April 2003 – the Government will present a paper on the State Homelessness Strategy at the National Homelessness Conference.</li> <li>• 17 October 2003 – Homelessness will be the focus of Poverty Day.</li> </ul> <p>An investigative project has been commenced by the Department of Housing and Works to assess the merits of not for profit-housing companies which are operating in the eastern states. The objective of the project is to assist in alleviating housing affordability problems and achieve greater efficiency with public housing funding.</p> <p>Consideration is being given a possible demonstration project in WA.</p>

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<b>3.4</b>	<b>Working Together</b>		
3.4.1	State Government agencies develop better ways of collecting data on people who are homeless.	<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. 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 first part of census analysis has been completed and a report developed - <i>Youth Homelessness in 2001</i>.</p> <p>The Department for Community Development will continue to work with the Australian Bureau of Statistics on the issue of the collection of homelessness data.</p> <p>The collection of data is one consideration being addressed in the work around designing an evaluation framework.</p> <p><b>A consultant has been employed to assist the Monitoring Committee to develop key Performance Indicators and an evaluation plan for the implementation of the State Homelessness Strategy. Work is expected to be completed by the end of March 2003.</b></p>

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3.4.2	Develop a commitment across the Government and community sector to work together in implementing the Action Plan.	The new Homelessness Monitoring Committee will provide the framework for ensuring a shared commitment by the Government and community to this issue. Government agencies will be required to work in partnership and collaborate with the community sector in the implementation of the many new initiatives outlined in this report.	Department for Community Development (DCD)  The Monitoring Committee has been established.  For details of the membership and Terms of Reference go to <a href="http://www.homeless.dhw.wa.gov.au">www.homeless.dhw.wa.gov.au</a>  <b>A consultant has been employed to assist the Monitoring Committee to develop key Performance Indicators and an evaluation plan for the implementation of the State Homelessness Strategy. Work is expected to be completed by the end of March 2003.</b>
3.4.3	Develop a method of centralising funding for new initiatives arising from the Taskforce across Government portfolios.	The Government is keen to develop better ways of funding whole of Government initiatives and will continue to investigate opportunities.	Department of the Premier and Cabinet (DPC)  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 <b>and the Functional Review Taskforce. Consideration is being given to developing a range of multi-lateral budget initiatives.</b>

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3.4.4	Developing flexibility in funding arrangement to enable Government and community agencies to work together.	The Government is committed to the development of more flexibility in funding arrangements for the not-for-profit sector. The Working Party on Funding Agreements with Not-for-profit Organisations has completed and released a consultation report on proposed new arrangements. It is anticipated these new arrangements will come into effect from 1 July 2002. These new arrangements will recognise the partnership between the community and the Government in the provision of services.	Department of the Premier and Cabinet (DPC)  The recommendations of the Working Party on Funding Agreements with Not-For-Profit Organisations have been adopted by the Government and became operational on 1 November 2002. The detailed policy is on the Department of Premier and Cabinet web site at <a href="http://www.dpc.wa.gov.au/psmd/pubs/psrd/community/fundpurchasepolicy.pdf">www.dpc.wa.gov.au/psmd/pubs/psrd/community/fundpurchasepolicy.pdf</a>