

HOMELESSNESS 2020 STRATEGY



A new homelessness strategy for Victoria

Victorian context: the changing face

Around 20,500 Victorians are homeless according to the 2006 Census

- Over 45% were under 24 years
- 31% stayed in homeless services
- Indigenous people are over represented
- Over 2,200 people were rough sleepers
- Women were over 65% of homeless services clients
- Around 21,400 children accompanied adults to homeless services

Victorian Homelessness Strategy

- Innovative Strategy in 2002 provided:
 - Strong policy framework
 - Well developed, collaborative homelessness service
- Need a new collective vision given the new challenges and opportunities

White Paper on Homelessness

- Homelessness is a national priority
- 2 goals by 2020:
 - to halve homelessness; and
 - offer accommodation to all rough sleepers who need it.
- 3 strategies to achieve these goals:
 - prevention and early intervention;
 - improving and expanding services; and
 - breaking the cycle of homelessness.

National Partnership Agreements

- National Partnership Agreements on Homelessness, Social Housing and Nation Building
- Over next 5 years, \$1.4 billion in Victoria
- By 2012, over 4,500 new dwellings and around 5,600 social housing refurbishments

Homelessness 2020 themes

- Social Inclusion
- Improving prevention and early intervention
- Whole of Government approaches
- Focusing policy and service delivery to the individual – an outcome focus

Social Inclusion

- homeless people are diverse
- people at the margins or homeless are able to participate in community life
- housing is crucial, but alone is not sufficient
- create sustainable, long term solutions

Improving Prevention and early Intervention

- Crucial to reducing homelessness
- Clarifying responsibility and accountability of homelessness and mainstream services
 - Prevention with the mainstream service
 - Early intervention and breaking the cycle shared responsibility
 - Long term or chronic homeless shared responsibility

Whole of Government

- new direction requires broad based, cross Government approach
- involves 3 tiers of government
- Future models such as:
 - Multi disciplinary models
 - Pooled funding models
 - Improved data collection tools

Focus on the Individual

- move to outcome rather than output
- New case management approaches
- Greater alignment of housing support to outcomes

Consultation Process

- Community forums – November 2009
- Written submissions -
close 27 November 2009
- Feedback on consultations –
January 2010
- Draft strategy consultations –
April 2010

Milestones

- Discussion Paper – October 2009
- Draft Strategy – March 2010
- Final Strategy – May 2010

Information

- Written submission and feedback to homelessness2020@dhs.vic.gov.au
- Information from website: www.homelessness.vic.gov.au