

MELBOURNE STREET TO HOME

Melbourne Street to Home (MS2H) is a new program providing coordinated housing, support services and health intervention targeted at the most vulnerable people who are rough sleeping in inner-Melbourne. HomeGround Services has formed a partnership with The Salvation Army Adult Services and The Salvation Army Crisis Services to deliver this program in collaboration with the Royal District Nursing Service.

Melbourne Street to Home is funded through the National Partnership Agreement on Homelessness. It is based on the highly successful Street to Home model pioneered in the US and is a key strategy of Federal and Victorian Government efforts to halve homelessness and to offer every rough sleeper accommodation by 2020.

WHAT IS THE STREET TO HOME MODEL?

The Street to Home model identifies and houses the most vulnerable people who are rough sleeping. Vulnerability means those who have been homeless the longest, have the most disabling conditions and are least likely to access housing help.

This group often spends years bouncing between emergency accommodation, hospitals and jail. Once people have a permanent home and the support to keep it, they are able to get back on their feet and connect with the services needed to improve their lives.

WHAT HAS IT ALREADY ACHIEVED?

The model has ended homelessness permanently for thousands of people internationally and interstate. In New York the Street to Home program was responsible for reducing homelessness by 87% in one area. Melbourne Street to Home is an adaptation of this successful model for local conditions.

In Adelaide, Street to Home has housed nearly 400 people over five years. In Brisbane, it found housing for 55 out of 58 long-term rough sleepers in an area known as 'tent city'. Street to Home approaches are also underway in Sydney, Fremantle and the ACT.

HOW WILL IT WORK?

Melbourne Street to Home will operate in inner-Melbourne, including parts of Melbourne, Stonnington, Yarra and Port Phillip local government areas.

Melbourne Street to Home will:

- Work with local agencies and the broader community to establish a register of people who are rough sleeping in the catchment.

- Use data collected to provide a preliminary assessment of each individual's vulnerability, taking into account factors like length of homelessness and conditions associated with a high mortality risk. This will identify the most vulnerable rough sleepers.
- Work from a Housing First approach, in which people are housed as soon as possible in permanent housing with tailored, multi-disciplinary support also provided.

MELBOURNE STREET TO HOME REGISTRY WEEK - 25-29 OCTOBER 2010

We are currently meeting with as many agencies as possible who already work with rough sleepers to discuss the coordination of Melbourne Street to Home with their work.

Registry week will use MS2H and other agency staff as well as volunteers to complete a vulnerability questionnaire with as many people who are rough sleeping as possible.

Common Ground US staff will be on hand to provide support and technical assistance during the registry week.

At the end of registry week, the most vulnerable rough sleepers will be selected as the first clients for Melbourne Street to Home.

HOW WILL IT BE EVALUATED?

Developing a strong evidence base is critical to establishing whether the Street to Home model is as effective here as it has been elsewhere.

Melbourne Street to Home is currently negotiating research partnerships.

WHEN WILL IT START?

Melbourne Street to Home is holding registry week from 25-29 October, although client engagement has already begun. Work to source housing and the establishment of relationships with agencies that work with rough sleepers has already begun.

MORE INFORMATION

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WEB RESOURCES

- Street to Home on HomeGround's website:
<http://tinyurl.com/268jfny>
- Street to Home Facebook:
<http://www.facebook.com/MS2HFB>
- Street to Home Twitter
http://twitter.com/_MS2H
- Micah Projects (Brisbane Street to Home):
<http://tinyurl.com/282wndq>
- 100k Homes Campaign (US):
<http://100khomes.org>