

# Working Towards a **National** Homelessness Strategy

Commonwealth Advisory Committee  
on Homelessness



Consultation Paper

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# Foreword

As Chairperson of the Commonwealth Advisory Committee on Homelessness (CACH), it has been a great pleasure to work with experienced and dedicated individuals to develop this paper, *Working Towards a National Homelessness Strategy*. Coming as we do from a range of backgrounds, our discussions as a committee have made us very aware of the extremely complex and diverse issues that are raised under the heading of homelessness. It is often the case that people who are already the most marginalised in our communities are those for whom homelessness becomes a painful reality. This is particularly the case where related government and community programs put in place to assist disadvantaged people are designed or implemented in isolation from each other.

The relatively recent shift towards developing whole-of-government approaches is particularly critical in the area of homelessness. It is our hope that the consultation process that follows the publication of this document will help identify the best way for this whole-of-government approach to occur.

The CACH is very keen to receive feedback from all interested parties on the range of issues and proposed solutions raised in this paper. We recognise that they cover a wide variety of topics and different population groups, but believe that this is necessary in such a complex policy area.

Finally, I would like to encourage you to raise this issue in your local communities and workplaces, as it is only through working together across governments and across communities that we will be able to address the issues of homelessness throughout Australia.

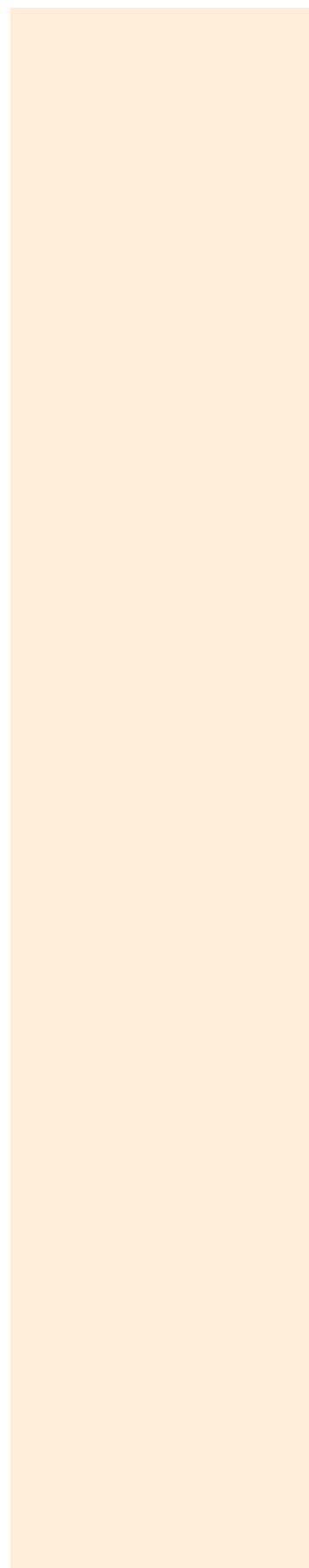
DON FRY AO

# CACH members

The members of the Commonwealth Advisory Committee on Homelessness are:

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- Michael O'Meara
- Linda Turner
- Tony Nicholson
- Dr Ian Winter
- Bryan Lipmann AM
- Ginny Hewlett
- Sylvia Geddes
- Penny Becker
- Adam Farrar
- Sue Ham
- Jane Barnes.

They can be contacted through the Department of Family and Community Services on (02) 6212 9350.



# How to use this document

This document is designed to focus discussion about the National Homelessness Strategy.

It has twenty sections covering structural factors, population groups and service delivery. You may wish to discuss one, several, or all of these sections.

To make it easier to collate and consider your feedback, we have prepared a set of questions which we hope you will follow in public consultations and written submissions. The same questions apply to each of the twenty sections. They are:

1. Do you agree with the goals? If not, please provide alternatives.
2. a) Do you agree with the priority actions? b) What do you think our *three* priorities should be?
3. Are you aware of other research or evidence that would improve our understanding of this issue? (Please provide as much detail about sources as possible.)
4. What do you see as the *three* priorities for further research on this issue?
5. Can you provide examples of specific initiatives that have produced positive outcomes for the people considered in this section?
6. What prevention and early intervention initiatives should be expanded or introduced to reduce and prevent homelessness?

## Submissions and information

Written submissions and requests for further information should be addressed to:

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# Glossary

<i>ABS</i>	Australian Bureau of Statistics
<i>Australians Working Together</i>	A Commonwealth initiative to reform the income support system
<i>ACHA</i>	Assistance with Care and Housing for the Aged
<i>AHURI</i>	Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute
<i>ATSIC</i>	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission
<i>CACH</i>	Commonwealth Advisory Committee on Homelessness
<i>CACP</i>	Community Aged Care Package
<i>CSDA</i>	Commonwealth–State Disability Agreement
<i>CSHA</i>	Commonwealth–State Housing Agreement
<i>De-institutionalisation</i>	The policy, followed since the 1970s, of assisting people with special needs in the community rather than committing them to large institutions
<i>DFaCS</i>	Commonwealth Department of Family and Community Services
<i>DHAC</i>	Commonwealth Department of Health and Aged Care
<i>DV</i>	Domestic violence
<i>HACC</i>	Home and Community Care Services
<i>Homelessness, primary</i>	People without conventional accommodation (e.g. sleeping rough and in improvised dwellings)
<i>Homelessness, secondary</i>	People who frequently move from one temporary shelter to another (e.g. emergency accommodation, youth refuges, friends' places)
<i>Homelessness, tertiary</i>	People staying in accommodation that falls below minimum community standards (e.g. some boarding houses and caravan parks)
<i>JPET</i>	Job Placement Education and Training
<i>JPP</i>	Jobs Pathways Program
<i>NDCA</i>	National Data Collection Agency for SAAP
<i>NHS</i>	National Homelessness Strategy
<i>RDNS</i>	Royal District Nursing Service
<i>Reconnect</i>	An early intervention program for young people who are experiencing homelessness or are at risk of homelessness; the program also assists their families
<i>SAAP</i>	Supported Accommodation Assistance Program
<i>SAAP IV</i>	SAAP has been funded and delivered since 1985 under a series of five-year agreements between the Commonwealth, the States and the Territories; the current agreement is the fourth (hence SAAP IV) — it was ratified in April 1999 and runs from 2000 to 2005