Homelessness Australia Annual Report 2023-24





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CEO and Chair report

In 2023-24, Homelessness Australia achieved significant change in policy and funding, and delivered impactful work supporting sector capacity and best practice.

In 2024 Homelessness Australia won our long fought campaign to permanently increase federal homelessness funding, with previously temporary funding now permanently included in the National Agreement on Social Housing and Homelessness (NASHH).

We celebrated success in advocacy for increased income support and social housing with a rise in Commonwealth Rent Assistance, and the passage of the Housing Australia Future Fund ushering in significant new investment in social housing.

Following intensive advocacy alongside the Home Time Campaign, we welcomed new resources for youth housing, addressing a major gap in the sector's response to young people without homes.

And we continued to call for stronger responses to women and children and other survivors of domestic and family violence experiencing homelessness, ensuring the links between violence and homelessness are recognised and included in the forthcoming National Housing and Homelessness Plan.

These successes reflect the willingness of our sector to be on the front foot, joining with us to advocate for the changes needed to end homelessness, alongside the important work done everyday to directly support people without homes.

The sector's energy for change was in evidence in a vibrant Homelessness Week 2023, which saw the sector put on a fantastic diversity of events, and engage in advocacy with the theme "it's time to end homelessness'.

Homelessness Australia coordinated the week and hosted the national launch with Minister Julie Collins and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner June Oscar AO.

The year saw HA deepen our media footprint, with over 6,500 media mentions across the year. We were pleased to see journalists increasingly quoting Homelessness Australia to press Ministers on the need for stronger action to end homelessness.

Homelessness Australia also took the sector's message directly to Canberra to prosecute the need to invest in our sector, and make the changes necessary to drive down homelessness.

In 2024, we deepened our link to the Housing First Europe Hub, hosting Housing First Europe Hub trainer and head of capacity building at Homeless Link (UK) to run a three-day Housing First masterclass with Homelessness Australia's Housing First Community of Practice. Many thanks to Lord Mayors Charitable Foundation for generously supporting this program and to Council to Homeless Persons and the national trainers for providing valuable in kind support.

In 2024, we also developed a series of national conversations, initially with a focus on consulting with the sector and people with lived experience to inform the National Housing and Homelessness Plan, and subsequently with the launch of a new discussion series, 'Talking Homelessness', to explore emerging best practice and reforms to end homelessness.

We kept the sector abreast of homelessness policy news and opportunities to engage with a regular bulletin.

Many thanks to Lord Mayors Charitable Foundation for generously supporting HA's advocacy work, to the Governments of Western Australia, Victoria and NSW for contributions to the costs of our international trainer, and to Council to Homeless Persons for continuing to provide back-end support and an office space to HA.

We welcomed the strong partnership with our peak body allies, the Community Housing Industry Association, National Shelter, the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Association and the Australian Council of Social Service, and with the Australian Services Union.

Heartfelt thanks to Stewart Grieve and Marc Eastmure of Johnson Winter Slattery, for the highest quality legal advice and extensive assistance this year.

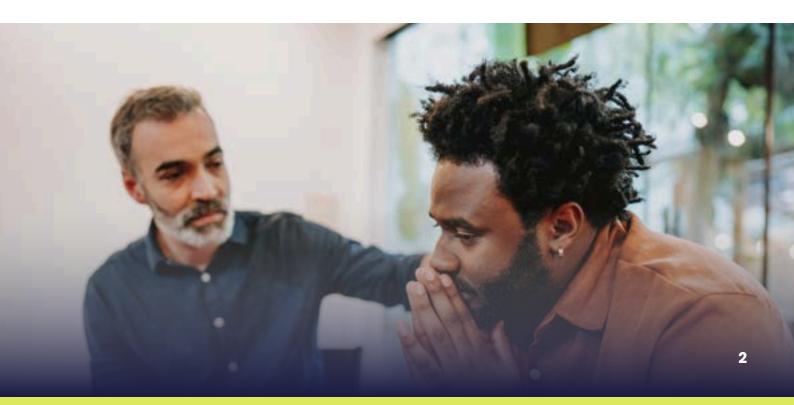
And thank you the homelessness sector for the important work done everyday to support people without homes, and our members and Board for their work behind the scenes to steer the ship.



Kate Colvin, HA CEO



Frances Crimmins, HA Chair



A huge win for homelessness funding

HA won a hard-fought campaign to make \$70 million in homelessness sector funding permanent, significantly increasing the ongoing resourcing for homelessness.



We won!

Following intense campaigning, in May 2024 the Federal Government made a permanent increase to federal funding for homelessness, embedding resources that had previously been temporary into the new ongoing National Agreement on Social Housing and Homelessness (NASHH).

This funding win relates to \$70 million annually provided by the Federal Government since the Fair Work Commission's 2012 Equal Remuneration Order for community sector workers.



Homelessness Australia CEO, Kate Colvin meeting with Senator David Pocock



on overwherring majority (SAL) scored 10 when pixed about the impact of \$10 million worth of
potential cuts to the sector proceeding.
 tomeleaness funding from July 2004 will be discussed in negotiations for the new five-year fictional
country and Homeleaness Agreement with the States and Sentiones of the Housing and Homeleaness.

Following this meeting services need on immediate guarantee that funding will not be cut.
The Housing and Hamelesmes Ministerial Council should also plan to more service capacity to meet

of Council on 23 February

Homelessness Australia led successful campaigns to save this funding in 2021 and 2023, winning extensions each time. The win in 2024 means this funding is now permanently in the base of the National Agreement, and is indexed annually.

The campaign involved significant pressure in the media, direct engagement with MPs and the Minister, a strong partnership with the Australian Services Union, and fantastic engagement from our own sector and peak body allies.



Homeless services need \$450m to meet rising demand

Tara Cosoleto | AAP Aumort 4, 2023 3 538M

> Despite the year's big win, the enormous unmet demand for services means further effort is critical to encourage Government to increase homelessness funding to meet need.

Throughout the year, HA produced a continuous stream of evidence pointing to the impact of the housing crisis on homelessness demand, and the need to resource homelessness services to respond.

From the Overstretched and overwhelmed: the strain on homelessness services report to our MYEFO statement Housing crisis: homelessness emergency to our Pre-Budget Submission 2024 we made the case for an increase in homelessness investment.

These efforts will continue.

Overstretched and overwhelmed: the strain on homelessness services



AUGUST 2023

Relentless rent increases and record low vacancy rates are driving more Australians Into homelessness and services are unable to keep up with demand. The latest data on use of homelessness services reveals a surge in demand for homelessness help in early 2023.

Surge in homeless pleas for help

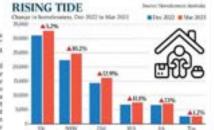
STEPHEN LLINN SOCIAL APPARE SHIP

Demand for hunder

Demand for historiestensors services is spiking at "universited levels, with older nomen most affected, our data shows. Between Devember and March the number of people swiking historiestensors assistance. those four months, fullowed to Western Australia (II per cent) and NSW (10 per cent).

On present trends almost 20,000 more Australians will be looking for assistance this year and if added to the 70,000 turned away from humateursens services with year, would leave an annoul shortfall in support handing of about \$450m, the seport rays. "A 75 per cost increase in democral lequel four months is un-heard of. It forces learneds

horselessness support and 80 per ornt of those barned away due to a tack of capacity, the report finds. "The Italia of increased



ng violence. It is heyond compre-sension, that we have to turn people away, especially in win-ter, Mo-Colversand.

Women aged over 67 accounted for the steepest percentage increase in demand the last four months, thou somen between the ages of 25 and 44 were the largest consect of those using such services. The day

housing legislation was 'only a small part of the overall solution to homelessness'. She said the a short' paird beam braners

distillings to be social housing.

"The horrors of the rental crisis are here to stay if governments don't act," Everybody's Home spokenmanum Valy Actav cald.

'Dinomical incourses aren't

Housing crisis: Homelessness emergency



Pre-Budget Submission 2024-25



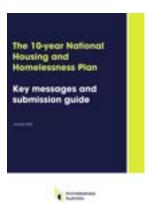
Towards a transformative National Housing and Homelessness Plan

Advocacy to raise the ambition and potential of the Government's 10-year National Housing and Homelessness Plan was the major focus of 2023-24

Homelessness Australia's work to influence the Government's 10-year National Housing and Homelessness Plan process involved deep engagement with the homelessness sector and people with lived experience of being without a home, policy papers to inform the process, direct engagement with Government, and media focussed on the need for an ambitious plan.

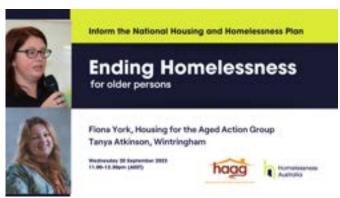
HA hosted 11 consultation forums, involving 985 people to create space for dialogue around the changes needed to end homelessness within the homelessness sector and people with lived experience. These discussions spanned the spectrum of prevention, early intervention and homelessness responses service, as well as specialist responses relevant to particular cohorts.

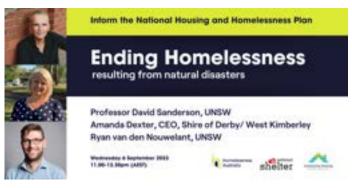
HA developed a policy paper to inform the early stages of Government planning for the process, a policy paper to support persuasive and consistent sector messaging, and a final submission that drew on the rich discussion in the consultations, as well as international literature on ending homelessness and our own sector's practice.













Through the year we had 29 separate discussions with the Minister, MPs and Government officials to inform the plan, and published media opinion pieces, as well as commenting publicly in reactive media on the need for an ambitious plan to drive down and better respond to homelessness.

The release of a Summary Report on the Government's Consultations highlighted some areas where the Government had taken on board messaging from the sector in relation to the need for homelessness prevention, and Housing First responses, and other areas where gaps in understanding of homelessness remained.

Following the release of the Consultation Summary, HA deepened its focus on the importance of domestic and family violence as a driver of homelessness, and the need for the National Housing and Homelessness Plan to be integrated with the National Plan to end Violence Against Women and Children.





Bold plan to eliminate housing crisis and homelessness within a decade

Homelessness Australia has made an ambitious submission to tackle the ongoing housing crisis.

Anthony Anderson

C test than 2 min med. Drouber 27, 2022 - 12,01AM





More than 1,600 Australians pushed into homelessness each month as housing crisis deepens, report finds

Fullow our Australia news for blog for the latest applica-



NEWS 75

How we can fix the crisis in housing

Kate Colvin



very day the box people into homelessness. This makes us feel we can't end this problem - but the reality is we are only an ambitious plan and a strong dose of political will away from ending it.

The federal government will on begin crafting a 10-year national housing and homelessness plan. Other countries that have succeeded in drastically reducing homelessness began with national plans based on the principle that in a wealthy nation, every person should have a home. They exhibited honesty about the problem, and ambition with the solution.

In Finland, homelessness has been almost completely eliminated and Scotland is making great progress. Each put prevention of homelessness and provision of housing at the core of their plan. Our housing crisis exists because the market is increasingly failing to deliver enough affordable homes.

Record low incancy rates are driving brutal competition and supercharging inequality

This is more than a social crisis. Economic modelling shows that meeting Australia's social and affordable bousing need by 2051 will cost tempayers \$55bn but save \$1100m by reducing crime and improving health, productivity and education. Every dollar we invest in social and affordable housing returns 52 - a much greater return than

infrastructure projects. Fixing the housing crisis is critical to homelewness, but on its own won't be enough. One is three people becomes homeless as a result of domestic and family violence, child abuse or neglect, or other relationship issues. We can reduce abuse and violence by better supporting families to thrive, and, where it does occur, enable victims to escape violence without becoming homeless by providing the support and housing they need.

One in five people experiencing homeles Aboriginal and Tomes Strait Islander. They are 10 times more homelessness than other Australians.

Fixing this over represe will take a new culture of

Intening and acting.
It's time for Australia to seize the day, commit to an ambition to end homelessness, and deliver access to bossing adequate incomes and the support that eople need to fix the ssness crisis

Kate Colvin is chief executive of demness Australia

A vibrant Homelessness Week 2023

Homelessness Week 2023 was an opportunity for sector wide action around the theme 'It's time to end homelessness' and an opportunity to focus on ending First Nations homelessness.

HOMELESSNESS MEESS It's time to end homelessness

Homelessness Australia coordinated Homelessness Week, creating a supporter pack and fresh branding to support the week's activities, and hosted the Homelessness Week launch in partnership with the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing Association (NATSIHA) and Aboriginal Housing Victoria (AHV)

The launch event focused on Ending First Nations Homelessness, with a keynote presentation from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner, June Oscar AO, followed by a panel including Darren Smith, CEO AHV, Ivan Simon, CEO NATSIHA and Tina Ugle, Managing Director Noongar Mia Mia. Minister for Housing and Homelessness, The Hon. Julie Collins MP launched the week and outlined her priorities.

During Homelessness Week the sector put on a fantastic diversity of events to celebrate excellent practice and raise awareness of the need to end homelessness.

Homelessness week also enabled us to intervene in the media to advance our advocacy to end First Nations homelessness, and increase investment in homelessness services.



















New homes for homeless young people

Major new investment will now flow to create new housing opportunities for young people following a focused campaign in 2023-24 to fix the barriers preventing housing funding from delivering housing and support for young people without homes.



HomeTime delegation meeting with MPs across Parliament to discuss youth housing

In 2022-23 Homelessness Australia played a key role in national lobbying and media as part of the HomeTime campaign to fix housing for young people.

This advocacy highlighted the impact of unmet need for housing for young people without homes, and drew attention to structural flaws in the way housing funds and tenancies are allocated that result in young people missing out on housing opportunities.

In a major win, the Federal Government dedicated the \$1 billion in the National Housing Infrastructure Fund to youth housing and women and children fleeing violence.

Further campaign effort will focus on the unmet need for support, and for continued housing investment to achieve the target of 15,000 young tenancies.

Find out more at: https://www.hometime.org.au/



"No pathways" for homeless teens and young adults to enter the private rental market | ABC News

Maintaining the urgency of action to end homelessness

HA has maintained a significant media profile to ensure there is pressure on Australian Governments to act to address homelessness.

In the past year, Homelessness Australia gained 6,680 media mentions with a potential audience reach of 138 million.

Stories have focused on the worsening homelessness crisis and the need for increased homelessness funding to meet need, the needs of women and children fleeing violence into homelessness, First Nations homelessness, the urgency of social housing investment, the need for higher income support, and the need for a strong national plan to end homelessness.



Women's safety advocate calls for increased funding in federal budget

abonews, au

The CEO of Homelessness Australia Kate Colvin is calling for increased funding in the federal budget for women leaving abusive relationships.

Katy Gallagher told Bridget Brennan the issue has been before the government for a long time, and promised more support is on the way in this budget.

happening. Download the ABC News app via the link in our bio.

#ABCNews #Budget2024 #Women #OpmasticViolance #Homelassness

OPINION

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Each day harmonisms and shall have seeing 200 people, have in the of these are narrow of children final derivated

Total: 6,680 Radio: 3,262 (48.8%) Online: 2,544 (38.1%) TV: 713 (10.7%) Print: 161 (2.4%)



Harsh reality despite all the words

Domestic violence is killing women and the biggest cause of women's homelessness. The two are connected

COLVIN D

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Herald Sun

Homelessness Australia calls on government for funding support amid national housing crisis



Achieving the change needed to drive down homelessness

Homelessness Australia plays a critical role campaigning for reforms to drive down the number of people without homes, as well advocating for a stronger response to homelessness.

In the lead in to the 2024 Federal Budget, HA strongly advocated to increase income support and investment in social housing. Each are enormously important to address the lack of affordability and access to housing that causes so much homelessness.

The homelessness sector got on board the campaign to raise basic payments, joining our joint letter to the Prime Minister. We were pleased to see a positive outcome in the Budget, with an increase in Commonwealth Rent Assistance to low income households.

Homelessness
Australia

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In 2023, we worked closely with peak body allies to support the passage of the Housing Australia Future Fund (HAFF), and in September 2023, welcomed the successful passage of the HAFF legislation, and the additional commitments to social housing accompanying the passage of the Bill.



Homelessness Australia also actively supports the Everybody's Home campaign to fix Australia's housing crisis, and HA CEO Kate Colvin chairs the campaign reference group. Everybody's Home was a powerful force throughout the year, maintaining a continuous public profile for the urgent need to increase investment in social and affordable housing.



Maiy Azize (Everybody's Home spokesperson), Margaret Quixley (Everybody's Home Campaign Manager), Thomas Johnson (Council to Homeless Persons - CHP) Kate Colvin (CEO, HA) Damien Patterson (CHP), Deborah Di Natale (CHP)

Strengthening Housing First practice

In 2024, Homelessness Australia's Housing First Train the Trainer program trained 12 new Housing First Trainers and hosted a 3-day masterclass for Australia's Housing First trainers with UK Housing First expert, Jo Prestidge



Jo Prestidge, head of capacity building at Homeless Link (UK) training SHS leaders in Housing First

The Housing First Train the Trainer project builds capacity in Australia's Specialist Homelessness Services (SHS) by upskilling lead practitioners to deliver Housing First Training in their networks. The project has been generously supported by the Lord Mayors Charitable Foundation and in kind support from Council to Homeless Persons and the HF Trainers Community of Practice.

In 2023, the project ran its third Train the Trainer training for 12 new trainers culminating in a 3-day face-to-face masterclass for all 24 active trainers with

Housing First Europe lead trainer, Jo Prestidge. The HF Trainers Community of Practice are now delivering Housing First training across the country and further developing Housing First materials.

While in Australia, Jo also led discussions with governments in Canberra, NSW, WA and Victoria in commissioning for Housing First and led sector workshops in the ACT, WA and Victoria to skill up sector leaders and front-line practitioners in key Housing First principles, and the importance of Housing First fidelity.



Housing First Trainers Community of Practice at the Sydney Masterclass





New conversations about homelessness practice

In 2024, HA created a new conversation series 'Talking homelessness' to explore important issues in homelessness.

Talking homelessness

Discussions exploring policy to end homelessness and practice approaches to strengthen homelessness responses

Creating a national dialogue around homelessness to explore issues and build knowledge is an important role for Homelessness Australia.

Following the success of our consultation dialogues for the national housing and homelessness plan process, HA created a new webinar series 'Talking homelessness' to create space to discuss evolving best practice and policy to end homelessness.

Webinar 1, hosted in partnership with Melbourne City Mission and Orygen, the National Centre of Excellence in Youth Mental Health explored Canada's Integrated Youth Services model with Dr Jo Henderson from Canada's Centre for Addiction and Mental Health.











Professor Cameron Parsell and Peer Education and Support Program Graduates Christine Thirkell and Amanda Bingham

Webinar 2, Dependence and autonomy: Putting dignity at the heart of homelessness was hosted in partnership with Council to Homeless Persons Peer Education and Support Program to explore client perspectives on the challenges of using homelessness services. The webinar examined the sacrifices in autonomy and dignity that can result from reliance on services, and what services can do to maximise people's agency.

Financial report

HOMELESSNESS AUSTRALIA LIMITED

Statement of Comprehensive Income for the year ended 30 June 2024

	2024	2023
20 00 00 00 00	\$	\$
Income		
Interest income	11,488	8,938
Donations	(46)	937
Other	15,422	1,300
Grant/Project Income	197,944	1,810
Total income	224.808	12.985
Less:		
Expenses		
Auditor's remuneration	2,500	2,500
Consultants	35,474	20,000
Annual Leave Provision	6,436	1,010
Depreciation	1,165	472
Employee Emoluments	207,612	105,109
Project Costs	116,468	1,810
Board expenses	4,329	1,683
Other	43,205	16,813
	417,189	172,161
Operating (deficit)/profit for the year	(192,381)	(159,176)
Other comprehensive income	<u> </u>	
Total comprehensive (deficit)/profit for the year	\$192,381)	(\$159,176)

HOMELESSNESS AUSTRALIA LIMITED

Statement of Changes in Equity for the year ended 30 June 2024

	Retained Earnings	Total Equity
At 30 June 2023	915,432	915,432
(Loss) for the year	(192,381)	(192,381)
At 30 June 2024	\$915,432	\$915,432
At 30 June 2024	<u>\$723,051</u>	<u>\$723,051</u>

www.homelessnessaustralia.org.au

Homelessness Australia acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of all of the lands on which we meet and work. We pay our respects to First Nations peoples and elders past, present and future. Always was, always will be, Aboriginal land.

