

Below is a summary of key policies proposed by the Government within 'Breaking the Cycle', the third of the three strategy areas outlined in 'The Road Home':

- Under the National Affordable Housing Agreement, due to commence in 2009, the Australian Government will work with states and territories to increase the supply of affordable housing and deliver specialist accommodation for people who are homeless. These initiatives will help to move people from specialist homelessness services into long-term housing that meets their needs, ensuring they stay permanently housed.
- Under A Place to Call Home the Australian Government is investing \$150 million over five years to provide a pool of 600 additional houses for homeless individuals and families across Australia.
- The Australian Government has allocated \$400 million over two years commencing 2008-09 to increase the supply of social housing. Between 1,600 and 2,100 additional dwellings will be built by the states and territories by the end of 2009–10 with this funding. This initiative will be implemented through the National Partnership on Social Housing.
- To promote this successful model of housing for older people who are homeless, the Australian Government will amend the Aged Care Act 1997 to recognise older people who are homeless as a 'special needs' group.
- The Australian Government will also allocate aged care places and capital for at least one new specialist facility for ageing people who are homeless in an area of need in each of the next four years.
- The Australian Government will provide funding of \$18.4 million over the next four years to enable existing providers to help more people obtain housing and community care services and for new providers to expand ACHA into new regions.
- The Australian Government will provide an additional \$1.9 billion over ten years to build 4,200 new houses and upgrade up to 4,800 existing houses in remote Indigenous communities under the National Partnership on Remote Indigenous Housing.
- Under the National Partnership on Homelessness agreed between the Australian Government and states and territories, there will be an additional focus on reducing rough sleeping. This will require the introduction of assertive outreach programs to find rough sleepers and connect them to sustainable long-term housing and health services.
- Under the National Partnership on Homelessness states and territories will provide additional specialist support to children who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.
- The Australian Government, through Centrelink will put in place a national network of 90 Community Engagement Officers from July 2009 to ensure that disadvantaged and homeless clients have enhanced access to Centrelink services and address barriers to participation.
  
- The Australian Government, through Centrelink, will trial the co-location of state and territory housing services in other Centrelink Customer Service Centres to improve services to

people who are homeless.

- To assist people who are homeless to participate in these kinds of activities, the Australian Government has provided \$2.3 million to RecLink to deliver their sporting and cultural programs like the Choir of Hard Knocks across Australia.

- As part of the Government's new employment service system, the Australian Government has committed \$41 million to an Innovation Fund.

- Under the National Partnership on Homelessness, extra Australian and state and territory government funding will allow the states and territories to expand legal services to clients at risk of homelessness with a focus on family law, domestic and family violence, credit and debt and tenancy.

- The Australian Government will examine enrolment issues for people who are homeless in its second Green Paper on electoral reform to be released in 2009.

Where the Government will start:

- Build 50,000 affordable rental homes for low and moderate-income earners.
- Build up to 2,700 homes for people who have been homeless or at risk of homelessness.
- Allocate aged care places and capital for at least one new specialist facility for ageing homeless people in an area of need in each of the next four years.
- Amend the Aged Care Act 1997 to recognise older people who are homeless as a 'special needs' group.
- Build up to 4,200 new houses and upgrade 4,800 existing houses in remote Indigenous communities over the next decade.
- Provide additional assertive outreach programs to locate rough sleepers and connect them to long term housing and health services.
- Provide additional specialist support to children including brokerage funds to assist them to return to home and school.
- Establish a network of 90 Community Engagement Officers in Centrelink to provide outreach services to people who are homeless and work with local service providers to prevent homelessness.
- Pilot the co-location of state and territory housing services in Centrelink Customer Service Centres.
- Reform employment services to provide greater incentives to employment service providers to assist homeless jobseekers.
- Improve legal services for people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.
- Examine enrolment issues for people who are homeless as part of electoral reforms to be progressed in 2009.

Download the [White Paper on Homelessness - 'The Road Home'](#). [Adobe Acrobat PDF - 722.52 KB]

Access the [full report and individual sections](#) via the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs website.