

Below is a summary of key policies proposed by the Government within 'Turning off the Tap', the first of the three strategy areas outlined in 'The Road Home':

- The Australian Government will work with states and territories to introduce compulsory rent payments from Centrelink payments for tenants in public housing at risk of eviction due to non payment of rent.

- The Australian Government will finalise the development of nationally consistent regulation of residential tenancy databases by June 2010 through the Ministerial Council on Consumer Affairs for implementation by state and territory governments.

- The Australian Government will review the impact of 'without-grounds termination' clauses on homelessness in state and territory tenancy legislation, and the lack of legislative protection for boarders and lodgers in some jurisdictions. As part of this review it will consider the impact of any proposed changes on landlords and future investment in rental housing.

- Under the National Partnership on Homelessness, up to 2,250 families at risk of homelessness will receive additional assistance to keep their housing stable.

- Under the National Partnership on Homelessness up to 9,000 young people aged between 12 and 18 years will be assisted by early intervention and prevention programs delivered by state and territory governments in partnership with not-for-profit providers.

- The Australian Government, working with state and territory governments, will provide around \$20 million under the fourth round of the PHaMs Program in early 2009 to deliver additional community based mental health services to difficult to reach groups of Australians such as people who are homeless who would benefit from mental health services.

- In addition, under the National Partnership on Homelessness, new or expanded services to assist people with mental health issues to maintain their housing and participate in the community will be delivered by state and territory governments in partnership with not-for-profit providers.

- Under the National Partnership on Homelessness expanded models of integrated support to enable women and children experiencing domestic and family violence to remain at home safely will be delivered by state and territory governments in partnership with not-for-profit

providers.

- The Australian Government, through Centrelink, will make weekly payments available to its most vulnerable customers including people who are homeless.

- Under the National Partnership on Homelessness, state and territory governments will implement a policy of 'no exits into homelessness' from statutory, custodial care and hospital, mental health and drug and alcohol services for those at risk of homelessness.

Where the Government will start:

- Provide additional support for private and public tenants, including advocacy, financial counselling and referral services to help people sustain their tenancies.

- Work with states and territories to introduce compulsory rent payments from Centrelink benefits for tenants in public housing to eliminate the risk of eviction due to non payment of rent.

- Regulate tenancy databases by June 2010 to prevent exclusion and work with states and territories to review the impact of tenancy laws on rates of homelessness.

- Implement a policy of 'no exits into homelessness' from statutory, custodial care or hospital settings.

- Deliver additional prevention and early intervention services for up to 2,250 families at risk of homelessness.

- Deliver additional services for up to 9,000 12-18 year olds at risk of homelessness to remain connected with their families, where it is safe and appropriate, as well as access to education, training and employment.

- Implement a funding round for the Personal Helpers and Mentors (PHaMs) Program.

- Deliver additional services – including brokerage funds and long-term support – to assist people with mental health issues and/or substance abuse issues who have been homeless to

maintain their housing and participate in the community.

- Provide additional support to make it safe for victims of domestic violence to stay safely in the family home.

- Develop a National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children with evidence-based strategies to reduce domestic violence.

- Complete a National Child Protection Framework to improve the safety and wellbeing of children including improved information sharing across state and territory boundaries.

- Introduce a 'flag' within Centrelink records to identify clients who may be homeless or at risk of homelessness to improve services for this group.

- Increase the capacity of Centrelink social workers to work directly with young people under 18 who have applied for Youth Allowance Unreasonable to Live At Home and their families.

- Make weekly payments available for Centrelink's most vulnerable customers including people who are homeless.

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.