Re: You do your budget planning on a four-yearly cycle; please let us do the same.

We know that the Federal Government cares about ending homelessness; the $115 million investment in the National Partnership Agreement on Homelessness (NPAH) is evidence of that.

The annual suspense as we await confirmation that the NPAH funding will be extended for a further 12 months leaves our clients and workforce anxious, and our homelessness services hamstrung. This year is the third year in a row that homelessness services have been on tenterhooks as to whether we can continue our work.

We cannot negotiate with our staff whose contracts soon expire. We cannot tell clients that the programs they have relied on will continue. We must carefully deliberate whether to accept new clients into those programs which have a long-term delivery model.

Women and children fleeing domestic violence, young people who can’t stay with their families and long-term rough sleepers looking for a bed for the night are all affected by the lack of certainty that a one-year funding cycle creates.

You do your budget planning on a four-yearly cycle; please let us do the same. Please commit to a four-year National Homelessness Partnership Agreement and give homelessness services the certainty we need to deliver housing and support to vulnerable people.

Yours sincerely,

Glenda Stevens, CEO, Homelessness Australia
Vicki Lochtlan & Maria Hagan, Co-Chairs, The Coalition of Women’s Domestic Violence Services of SA Inc
Adrian Pavey, Executive Officer, National Shelter
Donna Hadden, Executive Director, Don Dunstan Foundation
Doug Hughes, Acting CEO, Homelessness NSW
Dave Pugh, CEO, Anglicare NT
Joanna Stejka, CEO, Youth Network of Tasmania
Joanne Boyce, CEO, National Youth Coalition for Housing
Tony Browne, Executive Officer, NT Shelter Inc
Bryan Lippin AM, CEO, Wintringham Housing
Captain Jason Davies-Kilets, Manager Victoria Social Programme and Policy Unit, The Salvation Army
Julie Edwards, CEO, Jesuit Social Services
John Blicavs, CEO, VincentCare
Cathy Humphrey, CEO, Sacred Heart Mission
Rw Rie Holland, CEO, Melbourne City Mission
Bernie Douglas, CEO, WIRE Women’s Information
Felinda Jenner, Bola Manager Housing and Homelessness, Anglicare Tasmania Inc.
Carol Groen, Executive Officer, Community Housing Federation of Australia
Dr John Fahey, CEO, St Vincent de Paul Society, National Council of Australia
Dr Michael Coffey, CEO, Youndations
Kelly Hannan, CEO, NOVA for Women & Children
Jeff Fielder, Manager, Housing for the Aged Action Group Inc
Jenny Smith, CEO, Council to Homeless People
Jo Swift, National CEO, Kids Under Cover
Craig Connors, CEO, Youth Affairs Council of Western Australia
Patricia O’Byrne, Executive Officer, Shelter Tasmania
Shaeen Potts, Executive Officer, Yarned Services Inc
Dr Alice Clark, Executive Officer, Shelter SA
Ulan Withnoodles, Executive Director, YWCA of Darwin Inc
Mike Kelly, CEO, Time for Youth
Nanpie Clay AM, CEO, Southern Youth and Family Services Assoc Inc
Chantal Roberts, Executive Officer, Shelter WA
Dr Cassandra Goldie, CEO, ACOSSS
Sandie de Wolf AM, CEO, Berry Street
Roxane Smith, CEO, Nanga MMHa, Northern Regional Aboriginal Family Violence Service
Nina Ulyett, Acting CEO, St. Bartholomew’s House
Maryclare Moroney, Executive Officer, Eastern Domestic Violence Service Inc
Helan Dalgiesh, Manager, Equality Rights Alliance
Rhonda Collins, Manager, Latitude: Directions for Young People
Julie Cheetham, National Chair, WESNET
Pauline Woodbridge, Co-ordinator, North Queensland Domestic Violence Resource Service
Lindy Edwards, Co-ordinator, Serai Women’s Shelter Inc
Carole Kedrowski, Executive Director, Baptist Care Australia
Emma Pollard, Executive Officer, Youth Coalition of the ACT
Susan Heyes, Director, ACT Council of Social Service
Melissa Mole, Co-ordinator, Doris Women’s Refuge Inc
Pete Johnson, Manager, Multicultural Services Centre of WA
Meg Welsh, Deputy CEO, TassCOSS
Dr Roslyn Gregory, CEO, Women’s Health West
Michael Moore, Chair, Social Determinants of Health Alliance
Professor Heather Yemm, President, Public Health Association of Australia
Travis Gilbert, Executive Officer, ACT Shelter Inc
Patricia O’Byrne, Chair, Tasmanian Youth Housing and Homelessness Group
Elizabeth Jawor, Executive Officer, WRSC Family Violence Support
Karen Barnett, CEO, Ports Victoria Housing Association
James Bennett, Policy and Liaison Officer, Tenants Union of Victoria
Fiona McCombe, CEO, Domestic Violence Victoria
Catherine Yeomans, CEO, Mission Australia