



Media release 12 November 2016

Welcome Victorian Government investment will address homelessness for thousands of people

Today the Victorian Government announced it will invest \$109 million to deliver the support and housing needed by thousands of people experiencing homelessness in Victoria.

“This welcome investment is focussed on providing dedicated support to those who have been particularly struggling, and who need more intensive assistance to exit homelessness: people sleeping rough, young people leaving state care, those experiencing mental ill-health, and women and children escaping violence,” says Jenny Smith, CEO at the Council to Homeless Persons.

“Delivering dedicated programs to people sleeping rough, together with interventions to those most at risk from becoming chronically homeless is at the forefront of best practice.”

CHP has long advocated for housing subsidies for young people leaving state care, who are overrepresented among those experiencing chronic homelessness.

“Providing a housing subsidy for young people leaving state care is ground-breaking and will have a positive impact on the trajectory of these young lives” said Ms Smith.

“We also particularly welcome the holistic support and housing to be delivered to people sleeping rough, many of whom have experienced a lifetime of trauma and have more complex needs.

“This Housing First approach is international best practice, but until now has only been delivered at a small scale in Victoria.

“Today’s announcement will not only see more rough sleepers housed, but will provide the holistic supports that are needed to keep them housed.

“Today the Victorian Government has shown leadership in dealing with a difficult issue. But unless Victoria’s leadership is matched by the Federal Government making a commitment to extend the \$115 million National Partnership Agreement on Homelessness, due to end on 30 June 2017, all of today’s great gains will be lost. Our already increasing homelessness will become a tsunami.”

[Ends]

Media enquiries: contact Kate Colvin on 0418 103 292 or kate@chp.org.au
Jenny Smith, CEO, Council to Homeless Persons is available for interview