



14 July 2017

Media release

Preventing evictions; public housing stops homelessness in its tracks

Council to Homeless Persons welcomes new funding announced today to expand a practical and effective homelessness prevention program that prevents evictions from public housing.

“The Social Housing Advocacy Support Program (SHASP) has been critical to preventing vulnerable public housing tenants from being exited into homelessness,” says Jenny Smith CHP CEO.

“The best way to end homelessness is to stop it from happening in the first place. We can turn off the tap of homelessness by focusing on preventative programs like tenancy support,”

Too often vulnerable people with mental health problems or disability are housed in public or community housing with no support to help them sustain their tenancy. Without this help some tenancies break down, pushing people back into homelessness.”

“In 2015-16, 7,580 people living in public housing, and 1,424 people living in community housing approached homelessness services for help.

The newly named *Tenancy Plus* now has additional resources to provide support to community housing tenants, as well as public housing tenants, to support them to sustain their tenancies, and prevent people cycling back into homelessness.

The Government has also announced the construction today of new temporary housing and support for homeless people in Preston. These new housing units will provide a welcome increase in the temporary options available to people in housing crisis.

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