



Media release - 22 April 2018

Over 1,300 Australians went from psychiatric care to homelessness, AIHW data shows

The Victorian peak body for homelessness is calling for more dedicated accommodation for people discharged from acute mental health facilities, with AIHW data revealing that 1,356 Australians left a psychiatric hospital and became homeless last year. The number has risen 16% in two years.

A lack of affordable, appropriate housing means that too often people leaving these facilities can only afford to stay in rooming houses, crisis accommodation, where they don't get the support they need to continue recovery.

In its State Budget Submission, the Council to Homeless Persons has proposed a pool of medium and long-term dedicated housing for people exiting acute mental health services, with wraparound support to help them in their recovery and to stay housed. The \$40 million investment would create a mix of single and family units.

[CHP State Budget submission: Turning off the tap of homelessness](#) (p.9)

Quotes from Jenny Smith, CEO, Council to Homeless Persons

"A cheap motel room or a dodgy rooming house is a recipe for disaster following a mental health episode. Without a safe, stable home, recovery is virtually impossible. Any gains achieved in hospital quickly unravel when patients are exited into homelessness."

"We can turn off the tap of homelessness by providing the right kind of housing for this vulnerable cohort. It's a no-brainer."

"Providing a home means people can get well faster, won't fall into homelessness, and are less likely to be re-admitted to psychiatric care. It's a win-win-win solution."

Media enquiries: Lanie Harris, Council to Homeless Persons, 0418 552 377 or lanie@chp.org.au