

Fact Sheet

Social and Affordable Housing

Achievements in 2008-09

- During 2008-09, 318 Housing Tasmania properties were renovated, 21 new properties were added to Tasmania's public housing stock, planning and design commenced on 60 public housing properties and funding subsidies were allocated for the construction of 587 private properties for rental to low to moderate income households.
- The Housing Innovations Unit (HIU) was created in July 2008 to increase the quality and supply of social and affordable housing in Tasmania. At this time a \$60 million Housing Fund was set aside by the Tasmanian Government to support the housing reforms driven by the HIU.
- Key achievements of the HIU in 2008/09 included:
 - Construction of fifty affordable Quick Build homes on Tasmanian Government owned land for sale to low to moderate income households.
 - Administration of the National Rental Affordability Scheme, a joint initiative of the Tasmanian and Australian Governments. In 2008/09 funding for the construction of 587 new homes was approved under the scheme.
 - Completion of an audit of vacant land owned by the Tasmanian Government.
- Implementation of a new National Affordable Housing Agreement and National Partnership Agreements in social housing, homelessness and remote Indigenous housing.
- Funds provided by the Social Housing National Partnership Agreement funded the purchase of 15 brand new homes across Tasmania for public housing in 2008/09.
- The Australian Government's Nation Building Economic Stimulus Plan is having a substantial impact on the quality and supply of social and affordable housing in Tasmania. In 2008/09 the repairs and maintenance element of the Economic Stimulus Plan saw significant renovations made to 78 Housing Tasmania properties, and a further 240 properties received renovations to improve their energy efficiency.
- In 2008/09 the new construction element of the Economic Stimulus Plan enabled purchase of a further six brand new homes to add to public housing stock and to commence the design and planning for a further 60 new properties.
- Addressing homelessness is a major priority for the Tasmanian Government. In 2008, a benchmark of 376 people in Tasmania experiencing primary homelessness was established. There is a commitment to halve this number by providing 188 additional homelessness units by the end of 2010. Key progress achieved during 2008-09 included:
 - Opening Bilton Lodge at Claremont, a 35 bed Supported Residential Facility managed by Anglicare;
 - Providing 4 additional units at Bethlehem House for use by ex prisoners; and
 - Launching 'A Place to Call Home Hobart', a \$10 million initiative to develop 45 units at Liverpool St.

- The Tasmanian Government also signed an \$18.9 million Homelessness National Partnership Agreement which will have a focus on reducing chronic homelessness, seamless pathways from homelessness into stable housing, supporting private and public tenants to help sustain their tenancies and improving service coordination and improvement.

Key areas for 2009-10

- During 2009-10, a further 210 properties will be renovated and construction will commence on well over 500 new properties through funds provided by the Nation Building Economic Stimulus Plan, National Affordable Housing Agreement and Tasmanian Housing fund.
- The Housing Innovations Unit will take on additional projects in homelessness accommodation, land release and the expansion of the National Rental Affordability Scheme. The HIU's scope of work will also expand to include the many projects funded by the new National Affordable Housing Agreement and the Nation Building Economic Stimulus Plan.
- Activities planned for 2009-10 under the Social Housing National Partnership include the construction of 20 units of homelessness accommodation in Hobart's CBD and a further two units for public housing in Bicheno.
- Under the Australian Government's Economic Stimulus Plan, during 2009-10 an additional 100 Housing Tasmania properties will receive significant renovations and 110 properties will receive energy efficiency upgrades.
- The bulk of Tasmania's share of Economic Stimulus Plan funding for new construction projects will be allocated during 2009-10. It is anticipated that well over 500 new properties will commence construction (pending Australian Government approval), which will include a mix of social housing and specialist homelessness facilities.
- To reduce the number of Tasmanians who are homeless, during 2009-10 the Government will:
 - create a new program called "Same House Different Landlord" which will provide tenancy management to an additional 100 individual units purchased around the State. This will be complemented by a new specialist tenancy intervention service which will provide a high level of support to tenants for the duration of need. These tenants will not have to move on once their circumstances have improved, and
 - provide an additional 100 supported accommodation units through the creation of a further 5 new dedicated homeless facilities.
- These initiatives will produce a reinvigorated homelessness support system and ensure the Tasmanian Government exceeds its target of providing additional accommodation for people experiencing homelessness.