



Report Card July 2011

Launched by Minister for Human Services Cassy O'Connor in September 2010, the *Tasmanian Homelessness Plan 2010-2013: Coming in from the cold* is a new approach to preventing and reducing homelessness in Tasmania.

Coming in from the cold is a Tasmanian initiative under the National Partnership Agreement on Homelessness and outlines more than 80 actions to prevent and reduce homelessness.

More than 20 government, non-government organisations and local councils will help implement the plan.

We have made substantial progress in the 10 months since the Minister launched the plan.

Summary of achievements

We have delivered many new affordable houses.

Program	Activity	Completed	Under Construction
Nation Building Economic Stimulus Plan	New constructions and upgrade to existing stock	450	80

Program	Activity	Units approved	Units available
National Rental Affordability Scheme	New constructions	587	219

Program	Activity	Completed/Beds	Under Construction/Beds
Supported Accommodation Facilities	New constructions/upgrades <> support services	2/38*	3/127*
Supported Residential Facility- Bayview Lodge, Rosny	Refurbishment <> support services	1/29	na

Program	Activity	People accommodated	People supported
KEYS (to the Future) and STAY	Long term accommodation <> support services	74	97

* Mix of homeless and low income



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A range of other initiatives and programs are also making a significant contribution.

We have made real progress setting up the statewide network of Child and Family Centres to improve child and family health and wellbeing, and family and community connections. The Beaconsfield Child and Family Centre is open and building work is well underway on five more, which will open by the end of 2011. Six more centres are planned for 2012.

We have expanded programs to ensure people on low incomes can access fresh nutritious food. For example:

- o Foodbank Tasmania, which collects and redistributes surplus food
- o SecondBite, which conducts a number of food redistribution programs is expanding its operations.
- o The Tasmanian Food Security Council has provided grants to projects focused on increasing food supply.



We are providing no-interest loans through the NILS Network of Tasmania to people on low incomes to buy essential household goods and services, or to start or grow a small business. This plays an important role in preventing and reducing homelessness.

The Department of Education’s new statewide network of Learning Information Network Centres (LINC)s is aiding homelessness reform by improving community connections and providing ongoing education opportunities, including adult literacy.

The Department of Education is also making an important contribution to preventing and reducing youth homelessness through a range of innovative programs to provide students with alternative education opportunities and improve their family and community connections.

Local councils have also played an important role. For example:

- o Kingborough Council has worked directly with marginalised youth to help them access services as well as supporting and engaging young people in alternative education and arts programs.
- o Hobart City Council continues to convene Hobart Connect.

In addition to developing *Coming in from the cold*, Housing Tasmania has undertaken a broad range of projects to improve service coordination and ensure effective service responses.

“*Coming in from the cold* is an ambitious and multi-faceted approach to drive substantial reform in Tasmania through three priorities to reform: New supply, new services and new ways of working.” Minister for Human Services
Cassy O’Connor MP – September 2010

These include the Service Coordination and Improvement Program, which aims to develop more coordinated and collaborative ways of working across government and community services to address homelessness and to improve access to the social housing and homelessness service system.

This will jointly address homelessness through initiatives such as the Common Assessment Framework and Tool, the Tasmanian Housing Register, the Homelessness Resource Package and the whole of government review of exit planning.

Housing Tasmania has also initiated the Support and Accommodation Assistance Review to assess and improve the support and accommodation assistance service system.

Where to from here?

Housing Tasmania will continue to monitor *Coming in from the cold* actions and will release a mid-term report for the period up to December 2011 in early 2012.