

MEDIA RELEASE

The Hon Frank Terenzini

Minister for Housing

Minister for Small Business

Minister Assisting the Premier on Veterans' Affairs



1 August 2010

NSW leads the way in tackling Homelessness

Housing Minister Frank Terenzini today announced the roll out of a major Federal and State plan to tackle homelessness at a regional level right across New South Wales.

“Ten Regional Homelessness Action Plans – every one of them tailored to the needs of the local region – will deliver vital services over the next four years thanks to a \$284 million funding commitment from the Federal and State Governments.

Launching the NSW Regional Homelessness Action Plans today, Mr Terenzini said the most effective response to homelessness, as shown by national and international best practice, is a collaborative local plan.

“The Plans have been developed for ten Regions: the Central Coast, the Hunter, the Illawarra, South East New England/North West, North Coast, Western NSW, Riverina Murray, Greater Western Sydney, and Coastal Sydney.

Mr Terenzini said this unique initiative is the direct result of a tremendous working relationship with the Federal Government, and in particular, the Federal Housing Minister Tanya Plibersek.

“Under this initiative, \$40-million has been directly allocated to make sure 20 important projects are rolled out as part of the new 10-region Homelessness Action Plans.

“Some funding has already been released to allow important local projects to begin including \$1.9 million for Project 40 in the Nepean area - a new approach to uniting services that will help even more families access long term housing in this high need area.

“Ten Regional Homelessness Committees have been established and they’ve all been very involved in the drafting and finalisation of the Regional Homelessness Action Plans, under the coordination of Housing NSW, Mr Terenzini said.

Mr Terenzini said each Regional Plan identifies priority target groups based on available data and assesses each their needs in keeping with the priorities and strategic directions of the NSW Homelessness Action Plan.

“All Plans have a focus on improving integrated service delivery, particularly between different government and non-government service providers, for homeless people and people at risk of homelessness.

“A large proportion also prioritises Indigenous homelessness and prevention and early intervention activities.

“Other priorities include improved support for particular client groups such as rough sleepers, young people and people with mental health issues and improved data collection, monitoring and reporting.

Together with the overarching NSW Homelessness Action Plan, the NSW Regional Homelessness Action Plans represent a long term commitment from the NSW Government to address homelessness across the State.

“The Homelessness Action Plan also includes a commitment to establish governance processes that will ensure ongoing input from all relevant stakeholders and ensure that all related areas of policy development and service provision are appropriately linked.

Mr Terenzini said that to honour this commitment, the State Government established the Premier’s Council on Homelessness and Regional Homelessness Committees.

“Placing homeless people directly into long-term accommodation with the support they require has been shown to be more effective and less costly than the more traditional approach of moving people through crisis and transitional forms of accommodation.

“The significant increase in the availability of social housing that will occur over the next 18 to 24 months, through the National Partnership on Social Housing and the Nation Building Economic Stimulus Plan, allows the primary focus of the NSW Homelessness Action Plan to be on bringing appropriate and sustainable changes to the way support services are provided, Mr Terenzini said.

The NSW Homelessness Action Plan has been developed to achieve three key outcomes:

- *People never become homeless;*
- *People who are homeless receive effective responses so that they do not become entrenched in the system.*
- *People who have been homeless do not become homeless again.*

Plans will be available on the Housing NSW website at www.housing.nsw.gov.au.

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Projects to Be Funded Under the NSW Regional Homelessness Action Plans

By Region

- Central Coast:
- Central Coast Homeless Family Brokerage Project - \$1.5 million
- Coastal Sydney:
- Aboriginal Assertive Outreach Service - \$1.9 million
 - Aboriginal Advocacy and Tenancy Support Service - \$2.9 million
 - Inner City Drift - \$1.9 million
 - Inner City Integrated Services (Housing First) - \$6 million
 - Boarding Housing Outreach Project - \$900,000
- Greater Western Sydney:
- Young people in contact with the Juvenile Justice System who are homeless - \$1.1 million
 - Project 40 - \$1.1 million
- Hunter:
- Early intervention support for people at risk of homelessness – Hunter - \$550,000
- Illawarra:
- Support for people at risk of, or who are, homeless with mental health issues – Illawarra - \$550,000
- North Coast:
- North Coast Accommodation Project - \$5.9 million
 - Young people exiting Juvenile Justice Centres – North Coast - \$1.5 million
 - Young People Leaving Care Support Service - \$2.1 million
- New England / North West:
- Linkages for people with Mental Illness - \$1 million
 - North West Aboriginal Supported Accommodation Assistance Program (SAAP) project - \$1.2 million
- Riverina Murray:
- Young People Exiting Juvenile Justice - Riverina Murray - \$1.6 million
- South Eastern NSW:
- Community Connections - South East Region - \$4.8 million
- Western NSW:
- Intensive case management support for single men with complex needs - \$1.3 million
 - Young Aboriginal Parents Project - \$1.3 million
 - Early intervention in sustaining tenancies - \$1.3 million