



# A Way Home: Reducing Homelessness in NSW

## *NSW Homelessness Action Plan 2009–2014* Regional Homelessness Action Plans

### **A way home: The NSW Homelessness Action Plan**

The NSW Homelessness Action Plan sets the direction to achieve better outcomes for people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. The NSW Homelessness Action Plan incorporates the National Partnership on Homelessness 2009/10 NSW Implementation Plan.

The NSW Homelessness Action Plan will change the way we understand homelessness and its impact on the community; change the way we design and deliver services to homeless people and people at risk of becoming homeless; and change the way we work across government, with the non-government sector and with the broader community to improve our responses to homelessness.

The NSW Homelessness Action Plan includes three strategic directions:

1. Preventing homelessness: to ensure that people never become homeless
2. Responding effectively to homelessness: to ensure that people who are homeless receive effective responses so that they do not become entrenched in the system
3. Breaking the cycle: to ensure that people who have been homeless do not become homeless again

The NSW Homelessness Action Plan has three headline targets to be achieved by 2013:

- A reduction of 7% in the overall level of homelessness in NSW
- A reduction of 25% in the number of people sleeping rough in NSW
- A reduction of one third in the number of Aboriginal people that are homeless in NSW

The NSW Homelessness Action Plan is available on the Housing NSW website – [www.housing.nsw.gov.au](http://www.housing.nsw.gov.au)

### **Regional Homelessness Action Plans**

A key component of the NSW Homelessness Action Plan is the development of Regional Homelessness Action Plans (Plans). The Plans will be developed during 2009/2010 with implementation to commence 1 July 2010. The Plans will implement the strategic directions of the NSW Homelessness Action Plan at a regional level. This will include achieving changes to the way the homelessness, specialist and mainstream service system work together to provide flexible and integrated services to homeless people and people at risk of homelessness at a regional level.

There will be nine Plans across NSW based on the Regional Management Cluster boundaries:

Central Coast	Hunter	North Coast
Coastal Sydney	Illawarra	South East
Greater Western Sydney	New England/North West	Western NSW



The Plans will include a detailed profile of homelessness in each area and the service system and will identify priority locations within each Plan.

The Plans will enable services, community organisations, people who have experienced homelessness and the broader community to provide input into the implementation of the NSW Homelessness Action Plan at a regional and local level.

The Plans will be integral to the development of the National Partnership on Homelessness NSW Implementation Plan for 2010 – 2013.

### **Regional Homelessness Committees**

Regional Homelessness Committees are being established to support the development and implementation of the Plans. The Regional Homelessness Committees will be chaired by Housing NSW and will include representation from the non-government sector and the broader community. The regional committees will report to the Justice and Human Services Regional Management Cluster of the Regional Coordination Program as well as the NSW Homelessness Interagency Committee on the implementation of the Plans. This will include the identification of systemic issues that require consideration and action at regional and central policy levels.

The Regional Homelessness Committees will also be a point for local homelessness committees and existing interagency groups to refer systemic issues and provide advice and information regarding local service provision and emerging issues.

### **Planning Timeframes**

Regional Homelessness Committees will be established in late 2009 and broad consultation on regional planning priorities will also be initiated in late 2009.

Consultation and development of the Plans will occur from late 2009 until early 2010, and finalised before the end of June 2009.

The Plans will be implemented from July 2010 – June 2014.

For further information on the Regional Homelessness Action Plans please contact the Homelessness Unit, Housing NSW on (02) 8753 8487 or visit [www.housing.nsw.gov.au](http://www.housing.nsw.gov.au)