

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Australian Alliance to End Homelessness and End Street Sleeping Collaboration merge to strengthen Australia's efforts to end homelessness**

**The Australian Alliance to End Homelessness (AAEH) and the End Street Sleeping Collaboration (ESSC) are merging, bringing together expertise, networks and work under one organisation that will accelerate progress toward ending homelessness in New South Wales and across Australia.**

The decision to incorporate NSW-based ESSC into the AAEH builds on both organisations' aligned commitments to making homelessness rare, brief and once-off.

AAEH CEO, David Pearson said the merger will build on a strong platform for change, initiated by both organisations over more than a decade. Importantly it will expand national and statewide reach and influence, consolidating deep expertise in rough sleeping response and systems change through Advance to Zero.

"This merger of aligned organisations keeps exceptional work and strong partnerships going and allows us to make more focussed investment where it matters most.

"We look forward to continuing our shared commitments – ensuring that homelessness is rare, brief and once-off by working in genuine partnership across sectors, centring lived and living experience of homelessness in all we do and supporting NSW communities to drive lasting change."

**ESSC's work in NSW will continue in full.** The AAEH is working with the NSW Government to ensure that the by-name list database and backbone support for the Sydney Zero and Northern Rivers Zero efforts remain key priorities.

Work will be sustained and expanded, with ESSC staff transitioning into AAEH over the next months and continuing their work to see more communities across NSW take on the Advance to Zero approach.

A NSW Steering Committee is being established to guide work and more details will be shared in the coming months, with partners and stakeholders engaged to ensure alignment and minimise duplication.

As part of this transition, Katie Feeney will lead the NSW work, supporting communities and partners across the state and guiding the integration of ESSC's work into AAEH. David Pearson will take on the CEO functions, ensuring strong leadership and continuity as we move into this next phase.

Both organisations also extend their sincere thanks to Mark Phillips for his outstanding commitment to the work of ESSC and their goal of ending homelessness in NSW. Mark has been involved from the very beginning, playing a pivotal role in establishing ESSC, as Chair of the Board, and more recently as CEO. During his tenure, Mark guided the organisation through a significant period of change that has strengthened this work and positioned it for the future.

AAEH is pleased to welcome Dr Gregory Smith OAM (CEO, Home Address Australia) and Tony Davies (CEO, Social Futures) to the AAEH Board.

Later in 2026, ESSC staff will transition into the AAEH team, ensuring continuity of expertise and ongoing delivery of shared priorities. Further details will be shared as arrangements are confirmed.

AAEH warmly thanks the outgoing ESSC Board members for their exceptional contributions – Dominic Sullivan, Kirsten Jordan, John Macmillan, Shane Jakupiec, Rabbi Mendel Kastel OAM, Matthew Kearney and Anna Scott. Their leadership and commitment to collaboration have made a lasting impact on the work towards ending rough sleeping in NSW.

Together, AAEH and ESSC will continue to support communities to apply proven approaches to end homelessness, build the cross-sector partnerships needed to drive lasting change and use data, local insight and relationships to accelerate national systems change.

Both organisations thank the partners and communities who have stood with them in this work and look forward to sharing more as this next chapter progresses.

**-ENDS-**

For media enquiries, please contact:

- **Dasha Romanowski**, [dasha.romanowski@aaeh.org.au](mailto:dasha.romanowski@aaeh.org.au) | 0416 144 959

#### **About the Australian Alliance to End Homelessness (AAEH):**

The [AAEH](#) is an independent, non-partisan organisation working to prevent, reduce and end homelessness in Australia. We believe homelessness is solvable and that it requires collective, systemic action across sectors to make it happen.

We support local communities, governments and organisations to take practical action toward ending homelessness – not by managing it, but by addressing the systems that cause and sustain it. Through the Advance to Zero movement and other national initiatives, we help build a shared approach to achieving lasting change.

#### **About End Street Sleeping Collaboration (ESSC):**

As a unique, cross-sector partnership, the End Street Sleeping Collaboration was founded in a recognition that no single organisation or strategy, regardless of how large or successful it may be, could solve a complex social challenge, like ending rough sleeping, at scale.

Since establishment, our role has been to support the collaborative efforts of the whole of the sector at an individual, local and systems level with the common goal of ending rough sleeping in NSW.

#### **About Advance to Zero (AtoZ):**

[Advance to Zero \(AtoZ\)](#) is a groundbreaking national initiative of the AAEH that supports local collaborative efforts to end homelessness, starting with rough sleeping – one community at a time. Using a range of proven approaches from around the world, communities are supported not just to address individual instances of homelessness, or even reduce overall homelessness, but to end it altogether.