



Australian Health, Housing and Homelessness Network (A3HN)

OUR VISION

A Health-Informed End to Homelessness in Australia

OUR MISSION

1. To promote collaboration amongst the healthcare, homeless and housing sectors to drive innovative responses to the health and housing needs of the homeless.
2. To ensure the health informed implementation of the Advance to Zero Campaign to end rough sleeping homelessness in Australia.
3. To provide a national forum for the sharing of experiences and the development of new tools, guidelines, models of care and other resources to support practitioners in the health, housing and homelessness sectors.
4. To support and develop strategic national initiatives to address the health and housing needs of people experiencing homelessness in Australia.
5. To advocate, with local and national partners, for greater funding and a greater role for health care systems in contributing to an end to homelessness in Australia.

OUR WORK 2020

- » Establish the Network's governance, administrative and business structures/models
- » Get key players/influencers in the health sector on board
- » Increased investment from the NHMRC, AHURI, Philanthropy and elsewhere in this work
- » Develop new and improve existing clinical guidelines to support practitioners working directly with people sleeping rough
- » Supporting people in the 3H sector, upskilling, encouraging their engagement in the work to end homelessness.

OUR ASKS

The focus of our work will be on seeking:

1. **A Policy** - The Federal Government should create a taskforce on health equity, housing and homelessness to develop a national policy response in collaboration with State Governments, Primary Healthcare Networks and the community sector. Included in this policy should be a nationally consistent commitment of no exits into homelessness for people with mental illness who are discharged from institutional care, including hospitals and prisons.
2. **A Network** - The Federal Government should provide funding for the work of the AAEH to establish a Health, Housing and Homelessness network with a broad range of health, and community organisations, professionals and people with a lived experience.
3. **A Pilot Project** - The Federal Government should fund an Assertive Intervention pilot in every state and territory, featuring flexible medical and outreach service delivery – including primary healthcare and psychiatric response, 365 days a year. The pilot would cost \$2.5 million per city, plus evaluation costs.

4. **Funding Certainty** - Existing funding arrangements between Primary Healthcare Networks health, homelessness and vulnerably housed services should be secured a baseline commitment for a five-year period. This will give services the certainty they need to operate with the greatest effectiveness.
5. **Funding Equity** - The Federal Government widen policy provisions to allow medical practitioners to bulk bill patients who have no fixed address and enable bulk billing for street-based and outreach consultations.
6. **A meeting** - Recognising the urgency of this task the Federal Government should call a special COAG meeting of health and housing ministers to consider, support and drive the implementation of these recommendations.
7. **A Campaign** - Support for the [Advance to Zero Campaign](#) to support a broad range of communities to implement the Zero Homelessness approach to ending rough sleeping.

EVENTS

1. Forum at annual Advance to Zero Summit - TBC - week of 2nd November 2020.
2. Bi-Monthly online meetings

FURTHER INFORMATION

AAEH - *Leaving No-one Behind – A National Policy for Health Equity, Housing and Homelessness*, available [here](#).

Additional Resources:

- » Adelaide Zero Project, Health, Housing and Homelessness Papers - [website](#)
- » Medical Journal of Australia - Homeless health care: meeting the challenges of providing primary care - [article](#)
- » Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness - The Canadian Network for the Health and Housing of People Experiencing Homelessness - [website](#)
- » US - National Health Care for the Homeless Council - [website](#)
- » US- Street Medicine Institute - [website](#)
- » The Faculty For Homeless and Inclusion Health - [website](#)

ABOUT THE AAEH

The Australian Alliance to End Homelessness (AAEH) is an independent champion for preventing and ending street homelessness in Australia since 2013. We recognise that the scale of homelessness in Australia is both preventable and solvable and are committed to working to ensure that any incidents of homelessness that do occur should be rare, brief and non-recurring. AAEH supports Australian communities to individually and collectively end homelessness.

GET INVOLVED - CONTACT US

If you would like to get involved with the A3HN please get in contact. We are also seeking organisational partners to support the establishment and operations of this network, if you are interested in partnering, please get in contact with CEO – AAEH, David Pearson at:

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