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MEDIA RELEASE

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Australian Alliance to End Homelessness welcomes parliamentary inquiry into homelessness recommendations, urges government action

The [Australian Alliance to End Homelessness](#) (AAEH) welcomes the final report on the [inquiry into homelessness in Australia](#) by the Standing Committee on Social Policy and Legal Affairs, and is urging the Australian Government to implement a number of the report's recommendations before June 2022.

Released on August 4, the final report highlights the critical need for a ten-year national strategy on homelessness, which would lead to “more cohesive policies, better coordination and more accountability, particularly in relation to the use of Australian Government funding,” according to Committee Chair Mr Andrew Wallace MP.

David Pearson, CEO of the AAEH, is optimistic about the report's recommendations and what they could mean for national, state and territory collaboration in ending homelessness: “I am hopeful that the release of this report marks the beginning of a new period of policy engagement and leadership in the many areas of Commonwealth service delivery and responsibility in relation to homelessness.”

However, Mr Pearson said it is critical for the Australian Government to act on a number of the report's recommendations as soon as possible, some of which call for implementation before June 2022.

“We've waited 18 months for this inquiry to be completed. We can't afford to wait another 18 months to see its recommendations implemented while people continue to experience the devastating effects of homelessness around our country,” Mr Pearson said.

As a result, the AAEH is calling on the Australian Government to organise an urgent meeting of state and territory housing and homelessness ministers to discuss the report's findings.

In addition, the AAEH is urging the Department of Social Services to establish an interdepartmental and cross-sector working group to ensure sector views are considered in the implementation process.

The AAEH welcomes the report's recommendations in relation to improved data collection, coordination and the adoption of early intervention, Housing First and place-based approaches – all key focus areas of the Alliance's [Advance to Zero Campaign](#), a national initiative that supports local collaborative efforts to end rough sleeping homelessness one community at a time.

"We continue to urge the Commonwealth to consider investing in the community efforts of the Advance to Zero approach in Australia. This initiative is based on a methodology that has been used around the world to not only reduce homelessness, but end it," said Mr Pearson.

The AAEH is also pleased to see that there is now a bipartisan commitment to the development of a national strategy on housing and homelessness, but stresses that such a strategy will only be effective if backed by federal investment and leadership.

"Now that we have a set of recommendations, it's vital to keep the momentum going so we can drive change. Ending homelessness is possible in Australia, but not without Commonwealth support, which is why we're urging the Australian Government to act now," said Mr Pearson.

-ENDS-

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About the Australian Alliance to End Homelessness (AAEH)

The [AAEH](#) is an independent champion for preventing and ending homelessness in Australia – starting with rough sleeping homelessness. The AAEH supports Australian communities to individually and collectively end homelessness. Specifically, they work with local communities at all levels to ensure everyone has access to safe and sustainable housing services and that any incidents of homelessness that do occur are rare, brief and non-recurring.