

**MEDIA RELEASE**

**28 February 2022**

**SA homelessness sector sets out what is needed to meet  
new commitment to end rough sleeping homelessness  
statewide by 2025**

**Earlier this month, the South Australian Government became the first jurisdiction in Australia to support a statewide end to homelessness. Ahead of the upcoming state election in March, the homelessness sector and allies have come together to write an open letter to leaders of the Liberal, Labor and Greens parties detailing what is needed to meet that commitment.**

The SAAEH is seeking to highlight how taking action on homelessness is a matter of urgency, given an estimated 20 people died in South Australia in 2020 while sleeping rough.

In the letter, the South Australian Alliance to End Homelessness (SAAEH) has highlighted how important additional funding is to achieve an end to homelessness.

David Pearson, spokesperson for SAAEH, explained that the letter has been sent to the Premier with the goal of attracting the support needed from governments across the country.

“Ending homelessness can’t just be the job of the housing minister – it’s about mental health, corrections and many other government agencies. We need to treat rough sleeping homelessness in particular as much as a health issue as a housing issue.”

Mr Pearson has also expressed how the global pandemic demonstrated the real opportunity that SA has to end homelessness on its streets.

“When COVID first hit, the government really stepped up and supported the sector to provide temporary accommodation to people experiencing homelessness to protect them from the virus. Our response to the pandemic has shown that we can end homelessness, but to do so requires sustained effort and the investments needed to back it up.”

“Most importantly, we need the federal government to step up and take a leadership role in efforts to end homelessness.”

**-ENDS-**

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**About the South Australian Alliance to End Homelessness**

The South Australian Alliance to End Homelessness brings together a range of people and organisations committed to taking action to end homelessness in South Australia. We are a community of practice or network which supports the implementation of the [Advance to Zero Homelessness Methodology](#) in South Australia. This methodology has been developed by communities across Australia learning lessons from their efforts to end homelessness and importantly the successful efforts in North America.

**About the Alliance to End Homelessness**

[The Australian Alliance to End Homelessness](#) (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, we 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.