Dear [Title][Surname],

I am writing to you to discuss a sustainable approach to ending the issue of rough sleeping homelessness in Australia. As you’re aware, there is an estimated [number – see table provided on AAEH website] rough sleepers in [State/Territory].

Despite the common misconception to the contrary, the scale of homelessness in Australia is both preventable and solvable. This has never been truer than right now. In the first eight weeks of this pandemic alone, we’ve been part of an Alliance that has worked with communities across Australia to provide temporary shelter to over 5,000 people who were sleeping rough or at risk of sleeping rough and represents a significant proportion of the 8,200 people who slept rough in Australia on the night of the last census. This is one of Australia’s most significant homelessness responses we’ve ever seen, but as we know this crisis is not over yet.

If we want people to keep public health directives relating to social distancing, personal hygiene and staying home if unwell, then it needs to be recognised that none of this can be achieved without a home. To make this happen we need a Commonwealth Government COVID-19: National Rough Sleeping Homelessness Pandemic Response Plan and request your help to support the establishment of such a plan.

Please find attached the AAEH’s proposal, Homes beyond COVID – Let’s get the Job Done: A Sustainable Response to Rough Sleeping, which sets out what we think an evidence-based sustainable COVID-19 response to rough sleeping homelessness should include.

I am seeking an opportunity to meet with you in the coming weeks to discuss how we can prevent rough seeping homelessness from compromising Australia’s recovery from this pandemic. We would also like to invite you to meet with us and visit our service so you can experience first-hand the impact of rough sleeping homelessness in our electorate.

Thank you for the time taken to consider my request. I will be in touch to follow up over the coming days.

[SIGN OFF/SIGNATURE]

CC: Australian Alliance to End Homelessness (info@aaeh.org.au)