



An open letter to candidates for the South Australian election 2010

Homelessness SA asks for a commitment from the candidates to continue the fight against homelessness as a matter of priority and urgency.

The South Australian Government, in collaboration with the not for profit and for profit sectors can work together to eradicate homelessness. Working together towards a truly inclusive society. In order to achieve this certain goals must be met, these are:

- increased provision of emergency accommodation and transitional housing for people in need including, but not limited to; women and children affected by family violence, people experiencing homelessness, refugees and asylum seekers, young people, families and people released from institutional and custodial facilities
- increased provision of long term housing options with security of tenure for people exiting emergency or transitional accommodation
- increased provision of appropriate support for people experiencing homelessness, or at risk of homelessness, in emergency accommodation, transitional housing and long term accommodation, including for those that require assistance to maintain their tenancy
- people experiencing homelessness, or at risk of homelessness, have priority access to required services such as mental health, alcohol and other drugs, financial counselling and emergency assistance
- increase funding to allow pay parity for those working in the not for profit homelessness sector with similar positions in government
- reduce waiting times on public and community housing waiting lists
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have access to adequate, secure, well-maintained, safe and culturally appropriate long-term housing, wherever they live
- commitment to implement improved homelessness legislation
- adequate funding is provided to ensure that the homelessness peak body is able to represent the views of both, people experiencing homelessness and the organisations working with them

Halving homelessness by 2020 is a worthwhile aim but it still means half of the people experiencing homelessness in South Australia will be homeless. This includes families, children and other people experiencing disadvantage such as mental illness. We must work together to ERADICATE homelessness.

About HomelessnessSA

Vision

The vision of HomelessnessSA is the elimination of homelessness through:

- advocating for the rights of people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness
- identifying and striving to address the conditions that create homelessness and inequality
- promoting a society where all people are valued and included
- encouraging active participation, cooperation and innovation

Mission

The mission of HomelessnessSA is to undertake advocacy, networking and community education on homelessness in South Australia

Objectives

The objectives of HomelessnessSA are to provide an effective voice regarding homelessness and related issues by:

- facilitating communication and enabling Members to network, liaise and share information to support the coordination of services to people who are homeless in South Australia
- operating as the peak body for people who are homeless in South Australia
- representing the interests of people who are homeless in South Australia to those involved in the political system including government at all levels, the media and the community
- advocating for social justice for people who are homeless in South Australia and their right to safe and secure housing
- contributing to the development of policy that prevents or ameliorates homelessness and promotes the provision of adequate services to meet the needs of people who are homeless in South Australia or at risk of becoming homeless
- encouraging the development and provision of services and service standards to meet the needs of people who are homeless in South Australia
- fostering an understanding of homelessness through research and consultation with people who are homeless, with services, with the broader community and with government
- establishing and maintaining relationships with appropriate national bodies
- undertaking all such other things as may be incidental to the achievement of the above objectives