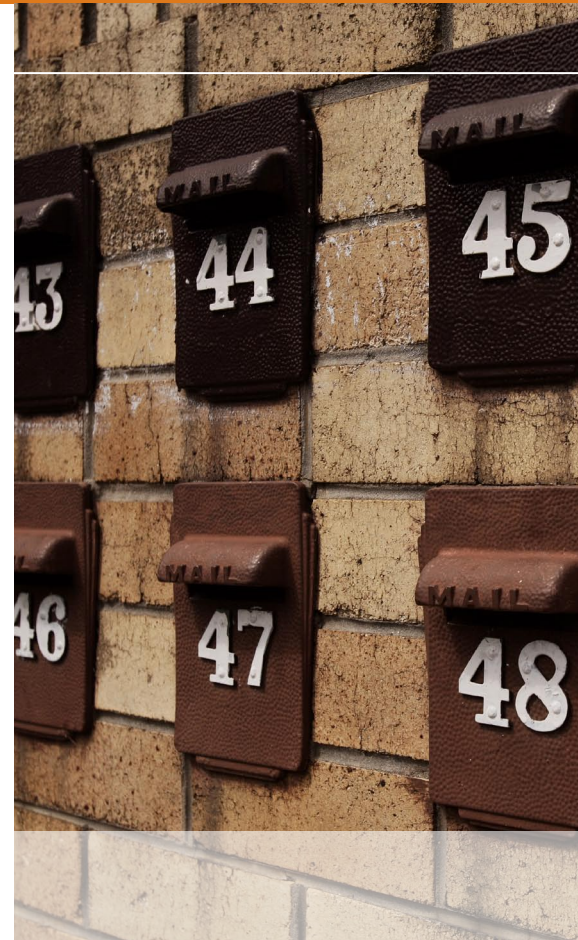# Regional Homelessness Action Plan 2010 – 2014

Western NSW

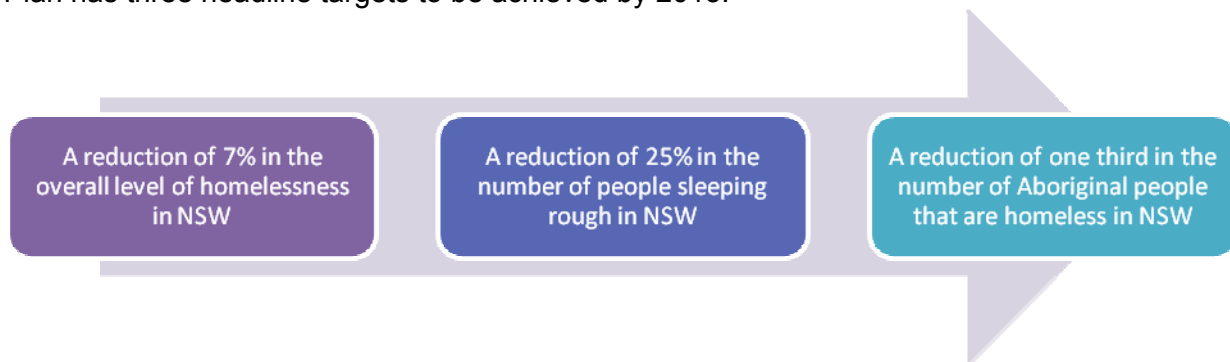# TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. REGIONAL HOMELESSNESS ACTION PLANS - OVERVIEW

Regional Homelessness Action Plans (RHAP) are the regional implementation mechanism for the *NSW Homelessness Action Plan*. The *NSW Homelessness Action Plan* sets the direction for state-wide reform of the homelessness service system to achieve better outcomes for people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

The NSW Homelessness Action Plan is based around three strategic directions:

> 1. **Preventing homelessness: to ensure that people never become homeless**
>
> 2. **Responding effectively to homelessness: to ensure that people who are homeless do not become entrenched in the system**
>
> 3. **Breaking the cycle: to ensure that people who have been homeless do not become homeless again**

Consistent with the National Partnership on Homelessness, the NSW Homelessness Action Plan has three headline targets to be achieved by 2013:

A reduction of 7% in the overall level of homelessness in NSW	A reduction of 25% in the number of people sleeping rough in NSW	A reduction of one third in the number of Aboriginal people that are homeless in NSW

Actions to address homelessness take account of different forms of homelessness:

- *Primary homelessness*. Primary homelessness applies when a person lives on the street, sleeps in parks, squats in derelict buildings, or uses cars or railway carriages for temporary shelter.

- *Secondary homelessness*. Secondary homelessness is used to describe people who move frequently from one form of temporary shelter to another. Secondary homelessness applies to people using emergency accommodation, youth refuges or women's refuges, people residing temporarily with relatives or with friends (because they have no accommodation of their own), and people using boarding houses on an occasional or intermittent basis (up to 12 weeks).

- *Tertiary homelessness.* Tertiary homelessness is used to describe people who live in premises where they don't have the security of a lease guaranteeing them accommodation, nor access to basic private facilities (such as a private bathroom, kitchen or living space). It can include people living in boarding houses on a medium to long-term basis (more than 13 weeks) or in caravan parks.

Through the *NSW Homelessness Action Plan* and *Regional Homelessness Action Plans* the NSW Government will realign existing effort, increasing the focus of the service system on prevention and early intervention and long-term accommodation and support.

The RHAP should be read in conjunction with:

- The *NSW Homelessness Action Plan*
- *Regional Homelessness Action Plan Planning Framework*
- *National Partnership Agreement on Homelessness*
- *National Partnership on Homelessness NSW Implementation Plan 2009-2013.*

2 SCOPE OF REGIONAL HOMELESSNESS ACTION PLANS

The NSW Homelessness Action Plan identifies a number of strategies and actions aimed at implementing reform directions in relation to preventing homelessness and moving responses to homelessness towards a greater emphasis on long term housing with support rather than crisis accommodation. A key aim of Regional Homelessness Action Plans is to translate these reform directions into action at the regional level.

Experience suggests that the most effective homelessness plans combine approaches to addressing systemic issues while also supporting place-based initiatives that take account of local homelessness needs. Best practice in the national and international context also suggests that the most effective responses to homelessness involve a collaborative local plan – a framework that guides community-wide efforts to prevent homelessness, provide appropriate support to people who become homeless and stop people from re-entering the homeless system.

Regional Homelessness Actions Plans have been developed to identify effective ways of working locally to respond to local homelessness issues. Regional Homelessness Actions Plans also include local level implementation mechanisms for State-level policy responses to support reform of the homelessness service system as well as regionally-specific projects that reflect the characteristics of local homelessness, informed by evidence about successful strategies.

Regional Homelessness Actions Plans have been developed in the NSW Regional Coordination Program (RCP) regions. There are ten Regional Homelessness Action Plans in NSW, one in each of the nine Regional Coordination Program Regions, with two plans for Western region – Riverina/Murray and Western NSW. RHAPs have been developed in:

1. Central Coast
2. Coastal Sydney
3. Greater Western Sydney
4. Hunter
5. Illawarra
6. New England/North West
7. North Coast
8. South East
9. Riverina/Murray
10. Western NSW

Regional Homelessness Action Plans cover a four year period, 2010-2014.

2.1 REGIONAL HOMELESSNESS ACTION PLAN OBJECTIVES

Regional Homelessness Action Plans aim to:

1. Identify actions for implementation at the regional level that reflect the principles and reform directions of the *NSW Homelessness Action Plan*

2. Ensure that identified actions reflect the particular characteristics of homelessness in the region and build on successful local strategies and partnerships

3. Identify regional projects for funding under the National Partnership on Homelessness for 2010-2013.

Regional Homelessness Action Plans also aim to play a number of other roles:

- Supporting the implementation of local priorities and actions

- Facilitating regional service reform and more integrated service system responses

- Providing a process to document effective local approaches to add to the evidence base

- Providing a tool to collect regional homelessness data and descriptions of the service system

- Building cross sector and cross agency cooperation in responding to homelessness and contributing to raising the profile of homelessness as a central concern for the community

2.2   REGIONAL HOMELESSNESS ACTION PLAN WORKSHOPS

In NSW no one agency is responsible for delivering responses to homelessness, rather a wide range of agencies and services are part of the homelessness service system including:

- Specialist homelessness services with expertise in providing crisis and ongoing support services to homeless people.

- Specialist services providing support for people with particular issues such as mental health issues or drug and alcohol issues or disability.

- Mainstream services used by everyone in the community and provided predominantly by government agencies.

To support the regional planning process, representatives from across the homelessness service system were invited to participate in Regional Homelessness Action Planning Workshops. An electronic submission process was also available for stakeholders who were unable to attend workshops.

Workshops were held in each of the RCP regions, with two workshops held in Western region. Four Aboriginal specific workshops were held in:

- Coastal Sydney
- Greater Western Sydney
- North Coast
- Western NSW

The workshops focused on identifying:

- priority homelessness target groups in the region
- issues and gaps in the regional service system within a homelessness reform context
- existing effective responses and initiatives to homelessness in the region that could be expanded or duplicated
- key strategic actions and partnerships to support reform directions at the regional level
- potential projects for funding under years 2 to 4 of the National Partnership Agreement on Homelessness

The workshop outcomes and comments received through the submission process were key inputs into the development of the Regional Homelessness Action Plan. Plans will be further refined by Regional Homelessness Committees over the four year implementation period.

The Western Regional consultations endeavoured to attract participants from a broad range of communities and organisations across a vast geographical region. The Western Region Homelessness Action Plan Committee acknowledges the reality that not all interests could be fully realised in the plan.

Further, it is noted that a number of fundamental issues could not be covered or addressed within the scope of the plan including:

- Additions to the supply of accommodation in a number of communities
- Recurrent funding for existing or new 'pilot' projects
- Capacity of stakeholders to stretch resources or establish robust services in all communities or to respond to all target groups.

2.3 REGIONAL HOMELESSNESS COMMITTEES

Regional Homelessness Committees have been established to support the development and implementation of Regional Homelessness Action Plans. Regional Homelessness Committees will operate for the duration of the NSW Homelessness Action Plan.

Regional Homelessness Committees will act as a point of referral for existing local homelessness committees and interagency groups on systemic issues. Local committees and

groups will also provide advice and information to Regional Homelessness Committees on local service provision and emerging issues.

Regional Homelessness Committees are chaired by Housing NSW and include representation from government, the non-government sector and the broader community. Regional Homelessness Committees will report to the NSW Homelessness Interagency Committee on the implementation of Regional Homelessness Action Plans. This role will include the identification of systemic issues that require consideration and action at regional and central policy levels.

The NSW Homelessness Interagency Committee is a State-level multi government agency group chaired by Housing NSW. It includes the key agencies in the Human Services, Justice and Attorney General's, Health, Education and Premier and Cabinet Departments. The Committee reports to the Justice and Human Services Chief Executive Officers Group and is responsible for coordinating the implementation of the NSW Homelessness Action Plan and the National Partnership on Homelessness NSW Implementation Plan.

Western NSW Regional Homelessness Committee

The Western NSW Regional Homelessness Committee includes representatives from the following agencies and organisations:

|	
Housing NSW	Mark Byrne, Chairperson
Department of Premier & Cabinet	Ross O'Shea
Community Services NSW	Dennis Shrimpton
Ageing, Disability & Home Care	Phil Watterson
GWAHS – Mental Health and Drug & Alcohol	Claire Lynch
Aboriginal Affairs NSW	Anjali Palmer
Corrective Services	Narelle Jefferies
Indigenous Co-ordination Centre - Commonwealth	Leonard Hill
Burnside	David Ryan
Orana Far West SAAP Forum Representative	Liz Price
Central West SAAP Forum Representative	Jillian Long
Dubbo Domestic Violence Senior Officers Group	Julie Cooper
Community Housing Division	Helen Morgan
Charles Sturt University	Dr Julaine Allen
Richmond Fellowship	Aidan Conway
Mission Australia	Mark Xuereb
Aboriginal Housing Office	Laurinne Campbell

3 WESTERN NSW HOMELESSNESS PROFILE

3.1 OVERVIEW

The Western NSW region consists of 26 LGAs:

Bathurst,	Coonamble	Oberon
Blayney	Cowra	Orange
Bogan	Dubbo	Parkes
Bourke	Forbes	Walgett
Brewarrina	Gilgandra	Warren
Broken Hill	Lachlan	Warrumbungle
Cabonne	Lithgow	Weddin
Central Darling	Mid Western Region	Wellington
Cobar	Narromine	

At the 2006 Census Western NSW had a population of 304,156 persons. The 2006 Census counted 1417 people as homeless in Western NSW (excluding marginal residents of caravan parks - see s3.2 below). This total included 374 Indigenous homeless. Western NSW accounted for 5% of the homeless population in 2006.

The 2006 Census counted 159 homeless households[1] in Dubbo LGA followed by 122 in Broken Hill and 116 in Walgett with lower numbers in Bathurst, Orange, Lithgow and other locations, as shown in Figure 1 below.

FIGURE 1: NUMBER OF HOMELESS HOUSEHOLDS BY LGA WESTERN NSW
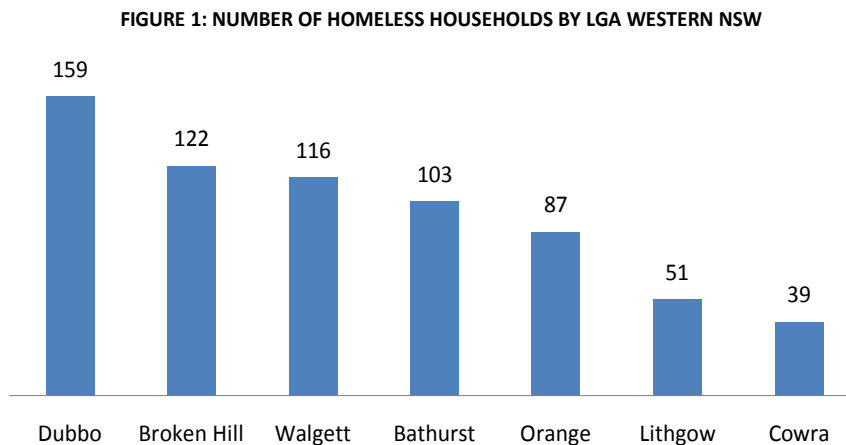
Source: Housing NSW – estimate of homeless households by LGA based on 2006 Census

---

[1] Housing NSW has prepared estimates of the number of homeless households based on ABS Census 2006 data which aggregates data on the basis of the number of homeless persons. The total number of homeless households is less than the total number of homeless persons.

The rate of homelessness in Western NSW in 2006 was 47 persons per 10,000 persons compared to 42 per 10,000 persons for NSW as a whole.

3.2 TYPES OF HOMELESSNESS

The 2006 Census includes the following categories in the definition of homeless:

Improvised dwellings	Sheds, tents, humpies, derelict buildings and people sleeping rough in parks, cars and public places
Friends	People staying with friends and relatives on a temporary basis, sometimes referred to as "couch surfers"
Boarding houses	Single room accommodation without a private bathroom or kitchen or security of tenure
SAAP	Services funded under the Supported Accommodation Assistance Program including emergency shelters, hostels and refuges

Figure 2 below shows the distribution of these types of homelessness in Western NSW at the 2006 Census based on the number of homeless persons in each type.

FIGURE 2: TYPES OF HOMELESSNESS WESTERN NSW
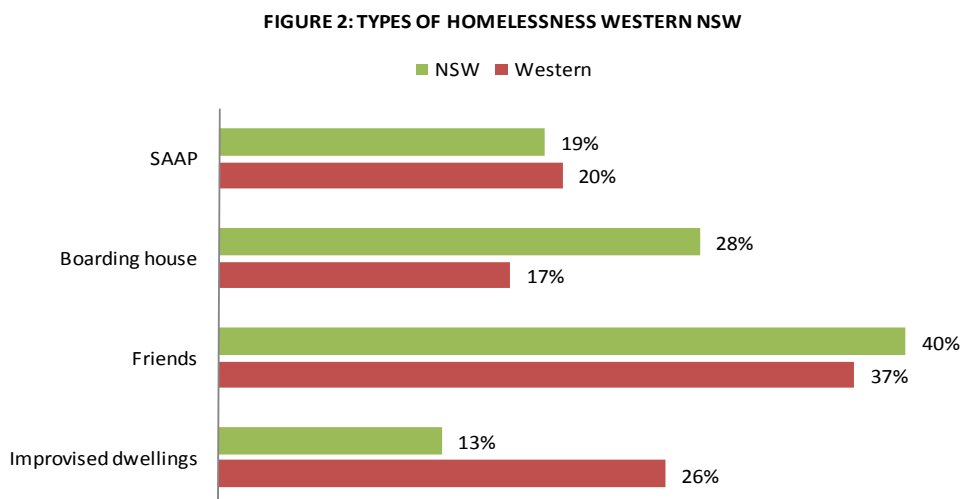
Source: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare Counting the Homeless, 2009 Canberra. Data has been aggregated into the RCP Western RCP region

Western NSW has a greater proportion of homeless people in improvised dwellings than NSW as a whole. Twenty six per cent of homeless people in Western NSW were in improvised dwellings compared to 13% for the state as a whole. Western NSW also had a slightly higher proportion of homeless people staying in SAAP accommodation than NSW as a whole.

There were 310 marginal caravan park renters in Western NSW counted in the 2006 Census which was 11% of the total number of marginal renters in NSW. Marginal caravan park residents are defined by the ABS as people renting caravans as their usual address with non one in the household having full time work.

Marginal caravan park residents are not generally included in the definition of homeless because of difficulties in distinguishing between people who choose to live in caravans and those who are forced to do so by circumstances. If marginal caravan park renters were included in the definition of homeless, they would account for 18% of homeless people in Western NSW[2].

3.3 INDIGENOUS HOMELESSNESS

AIHW analysis[3] indicates that in 2006 6% of Indigenous homeless people were located in Western NSW. In Western NSW the rate of Indigenous homeless is 105 per 10,000 persons compared to 41 per 10,000 persons for non Indigenous.

Indigenous homeless people in Western NSW are much more likely to be in SAAP accommodation than non Indigenous. Forty eight per cent of Indigenous homeless were in SAAP accommodation compared to 18% of non Indigenous. Western NSW had a much higher proportion of Indigenous SAAP clients compared to NSW as a whole. Fifty per cent of SAAP clients were Indigenous compared to the state average of 15%[4].

3.4 CHARACTERISTICS OF SAAP CLIENTS

About 19% of people defined as homeless use SAAP services. The following tables compare data on SAAP clients in Western NSW with NSW as a whole based on the SAAP National Data Collection June to December 2008[5].

Age of SAAP clients

Figure 3 below compares the ages of SAAP clients in Western NSW with SAAP clients in NSW as a whole.

[2] Australian Institute of Health and Welfare *Counting the Homeless*, 2009 Canberra
[3] Australian Institute of Health and Welfare *Counting the Homeless*, 2009 Canberra
[4] Australian Institute of Health and *Welfare Counting the Homeless*, 2009 Canberra
[5] SAAP NDCA data is generally aggregated by Community Services NSW regions. For this plan data was re-aggregated according to RCP regions.

FIGURE 3: AGE OF SAAP CLIENTS WESTERN NSW
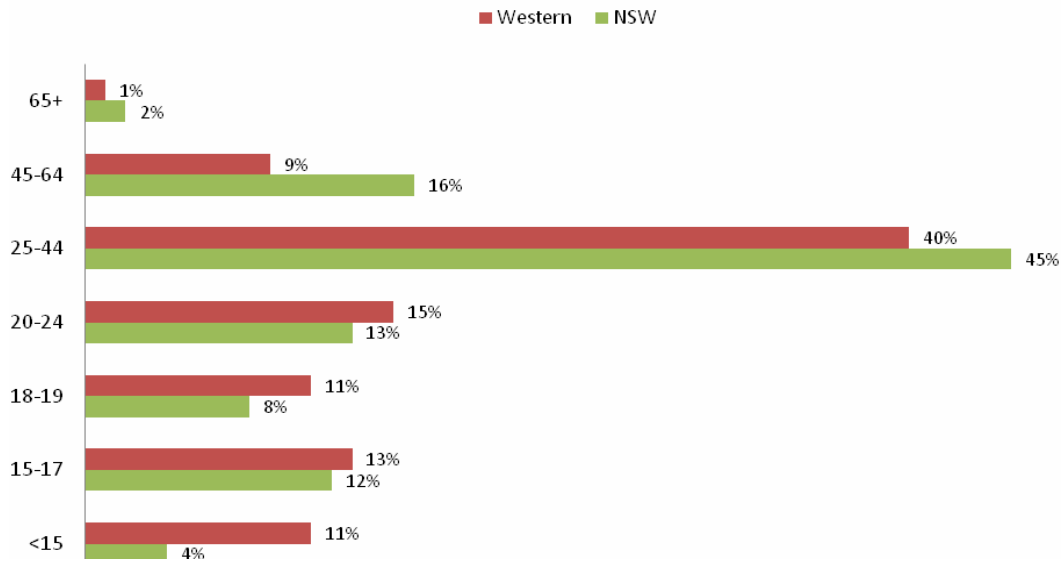
Source: SAAP National Data Collection June to December 2008. Data has been aggregated into the Western NSW RCP region
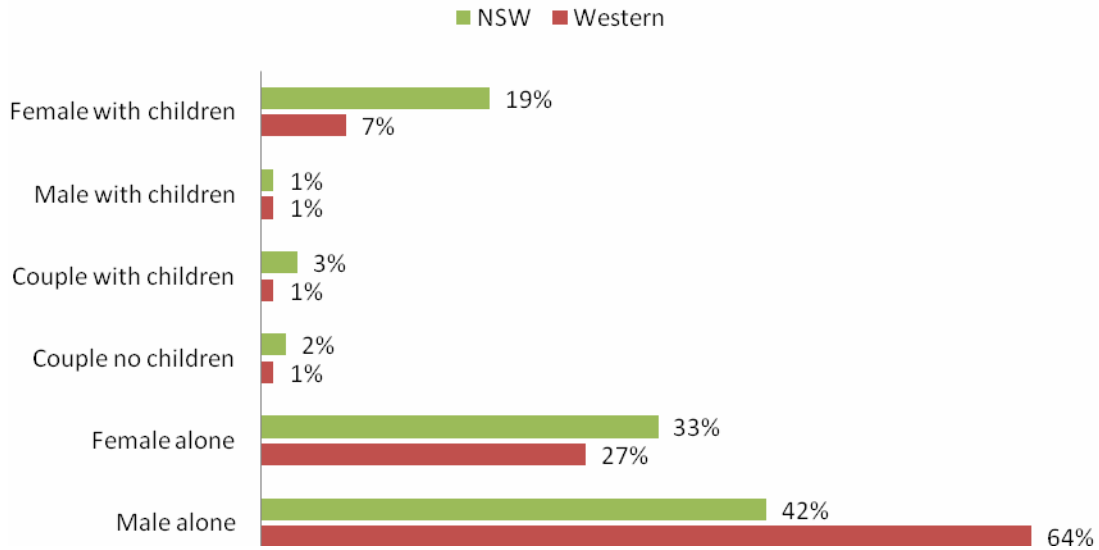
As shown above, Western NSW has a younger demographic than the State as a whole. Eleven per cent of SAAP clients in Western NSW are under 15 compared to 4% for NSW. Eleven per cent of Western NSW SAAP clients are aged 18-19 compared to 8% for NSW as a whole and 15% are aged 20-24 compared to 13% for NSW as a whole. In total, 24% of SAAP clients in Western NSW are under 18 compared to 16% for NSW as a whole.

Household composition of SAAP clients

Figure 4 below compares the household composition of SAAP clients in Western NSW with SAAP clients for NSW as a whole.

As shown below, Western NSW has a much greater proportion of single males compared to the state average. Sixty four per cent of SAAP clients in Western NSW were single males compared to 42% for NSW as a whole. There were lower proportions of single women and single women with children in the region, compared to the rest of the State. Seven per cent of SAAP clients in Western NSW were single women with children compared to the state average of 19%. Twenty seven per cent of SAAP clients in Western NSW were single women compared to 33% for NSW as a whole.

FIGURE 4: HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION SAAP CLIENTS WESTERN NSW

■ NSW ■ Western

Female with children — NSW 19%, Western 7%
Male with children — NSW 1%, Western 1%
Couple with children — NSW 3%, Western 1%
Couple no children — NSW 2%, Western 1%
Female alone — NSW 33%, Western 27%
Male alone — NSW 42%, Western 64%

Source: SAAP National Data Collection June to December 2008. Data has been aggregated into the Western NSW RCP region

Main reasons for seeking SAAP assistance

Figure 5 on the following page shows the top five reasons for seeking SAAP assistance in Western NSW compared to NSW as whole. As shown, the primary reason for seeking assistance in Western NSW is family and domestic violence at 22% compared to the state average of 15%. Western NSW also had higher rates of "time out from family" and "interpersonal conflict" than NSW as a whole.

Taken together, family-related reasons for seeking assistance accounted for 45% of the main reason for seeking assistance in Western NSW. Overcrowding was the main reason for seeking assistance in 5% of cases in Western NSW compared to 2% for NSW as a whole.

13

FIGURE 5: TOP 5 REASONS FOR SEEKING SAAP ASSISTANCE WESTERN NSW

Source: SAAP National Data Collection June to December 2008. Data has been aggregated into the Western NSW RCP region

Length of support period by SAAP services

Figure 6 below compares the length of support period for SAAP clients in Western NSW with NSW as a whole.

FIGURE 6: LENGTH OF SAAP CLIENT SUPPORT WESTERN NSW

Source: SAAP National Data Collection June to December 2008. Data has been aggregated into the Western NSW RCP region

Thirty four per cent of SAAP clients receive services for 4 to 13 weeks compared to 22% for NSW as a whole. Fifty per cent of SAAP clients in Western NSW receive services for more than 4 weeks compared to 37% for NSW as a whole.

Length of SAAP accommodation[6]

As shown in Figure 7, 23% of Western NSW SAAP clients stay in SAAP accommodation for 1 to 3 days compared to 18% for NSW as a whole. Nineteen per cent stay for 2 to 4 weeks compared to 9% for NSW as a whole. Overall,   44% of SAAP clients in Western NSW stay for between 4 days and 4 weeks compared to 28% for NSW as a whole.

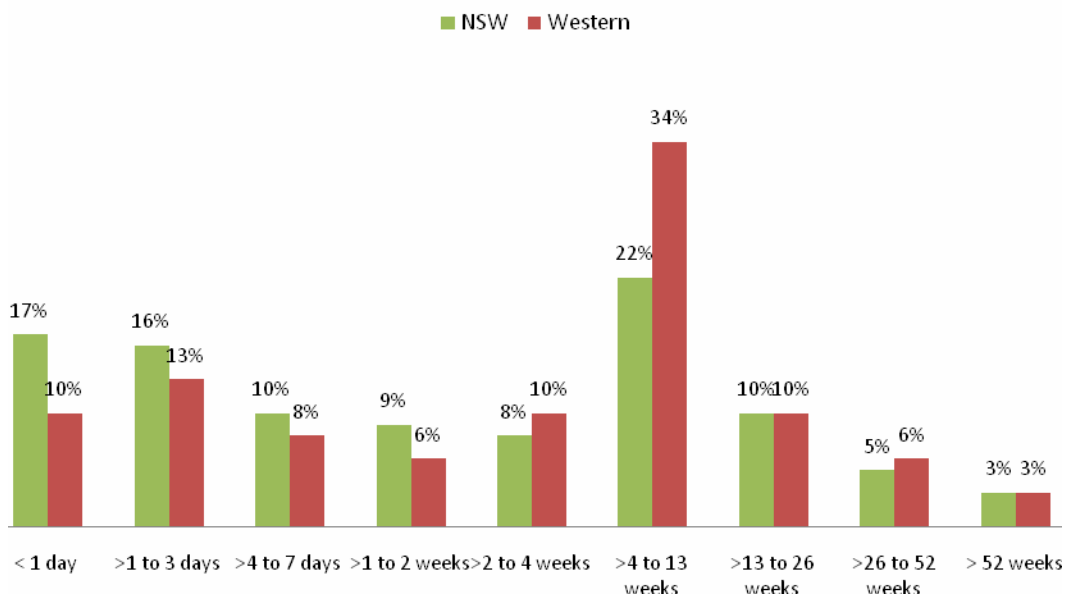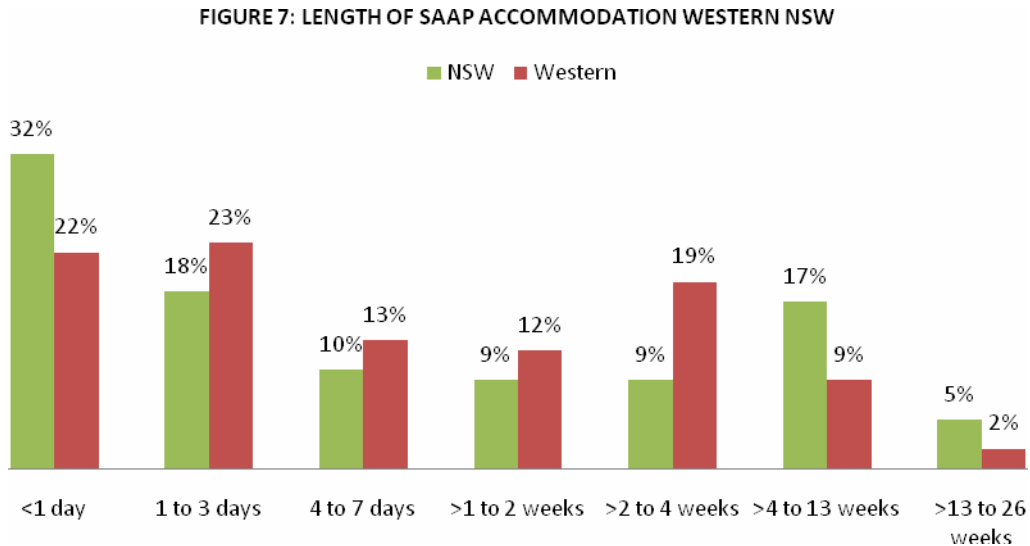FIGURE 7: LENGTH OF SAAP ACCOMMODATION WESTERN NSW

Source: SAAP National Data Collection June to December 2008. Data has been aggregated into the Western NSW RCP region

---

[6] Based on closed support periods

HOMELESSNESS SERVICE SYSTEM STRENGTHS, GAPS AND PRIORITIES FOR ACTION

The Western NSW regional homelessness workshops were attended by over 80 representatives from local agencies and services with a role to play in preventing and responding to homelessness. A list of organisations and agencies who attended the workshops is included at Attachment A.

The workshop identified key target groups as well as the role of local and state-wide responses to homelessness as outlined below.

4.1   KEY TARGET GROUPS

A number of key target groups were identified through the workshop and submission process. Target groups identified included:

- Aboriginal people
- Indigenous homeless in SAAP accommodation, or at risk of eviction
- Young homeless, including Young Aboriginal mothers and/or parents (under 18 years old)
- Single homeless males
- People with mental health issues
- Women and families escaping domestic violence
- Rough sleepers

4.2   LOCAL RESPONSES TO HOMELESSNESS

Local responses to homelessness include a range of SAAP funded projects as well as initiatives focused on strengthening service relationships and improved service coordination. These projects and initiatives are outlined below. State wide initiatives that have local benefits in relation to homelessness are also outlined.

Overview of Western NSW SAAP funded projects

There are currently 38 SAAP funded projects in the Western NSW Region.[7] Forty per cent of services in the region target youth and 32% target women with/without children escaping domestic violence (26%). Twenty one per cent of services support single men with 5% of services targeting single women.

Most services are located in Dubbo (18%) followed by Bathurst Regional (13%) and Orange (13%).

---

[7]   Data on the distribution of SAAP funded services in NSW was supplied by Community Services NSW. This data was aggregated into the RCP regions.

The distribution of SAAP services across the Western region according to target group is shown in the Table below.

Target Group	No. of services	%
Women & women with children escaping domestic violence	12	32
Families – couples / men with children	1	2
Young people	15	40
Single men	8	21
Single women	2	5
Total	**38**	**100**

NB: The percentages shown above relate to the number of projects not the distribution of funding to target groups
Source: Community Services NSW, SAAP funded services have been aggregated into the Western NSW RCP region

In addition to SAAP services it was noted that there are a wide range of charitable, non-government and government services providing assistance to people at risk of homelessness in the Western region.

Examples of some of the existing service models and approaches

Workshop participants identified a number of existing models and approaches to address homelessness in the Western NSW region that reflect homelessness reform objectives. These include (but are not restricted to) the following examples:

Responses to Domestic Violence

Some examples of local responses to domestic violence related homelessness include:
- Staying Home Leaving Violence (SHLV)
- Bathurst Women's Refuge
- Bathurst Women's Housing

Operation Courage
Operation Courage is a community partnership initiative of the Orange Crisis Accommodation Network. Operation Courage is a crisis accommodation model designed in consultation with domestic violence network members, health and community service providers, local government and government departments, to meet the needs, preferences and safety concerns of women and their children experiencing domestic violence in Orange NSW. The service is funded by the Department of Community Services and auspiced by Central Tablelands Housing Association (CTHA). CTHA offers a number of different housing services, including permanent housing and accommodation with attached support services.

Responses to Youth homelessness

Transitional Youth Housing Project (TYHP) in Orange
This is a partnership initiative between Emerge Youth and Family Services, Mission Australia Central Tablelands Housing Association and Housing NSW targeting 16 – 18 year olds.

Parkes/Forbes Youth Support Service
This is a SAAP initiative that assists young people aged between 16 and 25 in partnership with Housing NSW.

Veritas Youth Refuge/Outreach in Bathurst

This service aims to assist and engage with young people under 18 years. It provides outreach support and focuses on early intervention.

Interagency and networks

Interagencies and network meetings were seen by workshop participants as supporting better coordination of the homelessness service system. Some examples of these mechanisms include:

- SAAP network meetings
- Homelessness Interagency
- Murdi Paaki Regional Assembly
- Bourke Aboriginal Community Working Party
- Bourke/Enngonia Aboriginal Community Justice Group
- Bathurst Housing Network
- Domestic Violence – Senior Offices Group (Dubbo)
- Bathurst, Walgett, Broken Hill, Dubbo, Bourke, Lightning Ridge Interagencies
- Orange Community Partnership
- Families NSW (Central West and Dubbo / Far West)
- Family Case Management (Orange)
- Family Case Referral Service (Dubbo)

4.3   STATE WIDE PROGRAMS AND PARTNERSHIPS

Addressing homelessness requires a range of strategies and approaches. State-wide programs and partnerships have been developed over time to provide responses to particular target groups such as people with mental illness or to provide particular forms of support such as financial assistance.   Each of these programs and partnerships support the NSW Homelessness Action Plan.

The workshop and submissions highlighted the following examples of existing programs and partnerships:

Accommodation and support

The NSW Housing and Human Services Accord Agreement

The NSW Housing and Human Services Accord Agreement was developed as a shared policy commitment by NSW Housing and NSW Human Services Agencies to help mutual clients with complex needs to live independently and maintain their tenancies including people with disabilities, people with mental health problems and vulnerable families needing access to secure housing.

The Housing and Accommodation Support Initiative (HASI)

HASI is a partnership program funded by the NSW Government that facilitates access to long-term housing linked to specialist support for people with mental illness. HASI was identified by workshop participants as a model that represented an effective cross-agency response that could potentially be expanded locally.

Housing NSW Temporary Accommodation

The Temporary Accommodation program provides short term accommodation in low cost hotels, motels and caravan parks for people who are experiencing a housing crisis.

Homelessness Prevention

The Anti Social Behaviour Pilot Program (ASBP) – Specific Local Area Commands (NSW Police)

The ASBP Project is intended to improve case coordination across ASBP Participating Agencies and management of complex cases and crisis cases involving children, young people and families. This Program was seen to represent a successful model for effective cross-sector collaboration.

Keep Them Safe

Keep Them Safe is a five-year cross agency Action Plan that aims to re-shape the way family and community services are delivered in NSW to improve the safety, welfare and wellbeing of children and young people. Keep Them Safe includes actions to enhance the universal service system, improve early intervention services, better protect children at risk, support Aboriginal children and families, and strengthen partnerships with non-government organisations (NGOs) in the delivery of community services. Strategies and protocols put in place at the local level as part of Keep Them Safe were seen by workshop participants as successful in strengthening joint planning and collaborative responses.

Reconnect Services

FAHCSIA funds 32 *Reconnect* services in NSW with an estimated capacity to assist around 1,500 young each year. In Western region these operate in Dubbo, Cobar, Coonamble, Coonabarabran, Wyalong, Wellington, Mudgee, Broken Hill, Bourke and Walgett.

Personal Helper and Mentors Program

FAHCSIA funds 21 *Personal Helper & Mentors Programs (PHAMS)* which assist people over 16 years with mental health problems to live in the community. People who are homeless or at risk of homelessness are a priority group for service. In Western region PHAMS operate in, Brewarrina/Bourke/Mitchell, Broken Hill, Cowra/Bathurst, Dubbo, Blue Mountains/Lithgow, Mudgee, Orange, Parkes/Forbes/Condobolin and West Wyalong.

Tenancy Advice & Advocacy Program

NSW Fair Trading funds the state wide *Tenancy Advice and Advocacy Program* which assists over 30,000 clients a year (in 06/07 around 3,600 of these were social housing tenants). In Western region services are located in Orange, Dubbo, Bathurst and Broken Hill. There is also a specific Aboriginal tenant's advice service at Dubbo.

Legal Advice Services

Legal Aid provides free information, referral and advice to people at risk of homelessness under its Civil Law Program through its 11 metropolitan and 10 regional offices. Legal Aid has offices in Orange and Dubbo.

Staying Home – Leaving Violence

Staying Home Leaving Violence a specialised domestic violence program led by Community Services aimed at preventing victims of violence (and their children) from becoming homeless by enabling them to remain in their home safely. Community Services NSW is expanding the *Staying Home Leaving Violence* program to another 16 sites with 10 services being rolled out in 2010 including in Dubbo.

Financial Assistance

Crisis Payments available through Centrelink

Crisis Payments assist people experiencing severe financial hardship because of extreme circumstance such as domestic violence or a natural disaster, release from gaol or psychiatric confinement, or new arrivals to Australia on a qualifying humanitarian visa.

Emergency relief

FAHCSIA and Community Services NSW fund emergency relief assistance products that are available from specific non-government service providers (eg. Neighbourhood Information Centres, St Vincent de Paul) in some communities (including Lightning Ridge, Dubbo).

Rentstart (Housing NSW)

Rentstart provides financial assistance for people who have found private rental accommodation but need financial assistance to meet bond payments and in some cases, advance rent.

4.4   SERVICE SYSTEM ISSUES AND GAPS

The regional homelessness workshop and submission process identified the following homelessness service system issues and gaps:

Aboriginal homelessness
- Both the Aboriginal and mainstream RHAP workshops strongly identified the need for targeted support strategies and housing for young Aboriginal parents.

- An expansion of the Staying Home Leaving Violence approach to enable Aboriginal women experiencing domestic violence to stay in their homes was identified as a regional need. It was considered that the model could be supported by early intervention and support for families in crisis and alternatives to goal for male perpetrators.

- Developing more effective service responses to Aboriginal people at risk of homelessness requires specific tenancy facilitation services, as well as mainstream services that are more accessible for Aboriginal people.

- Many Far West communities are characterised by high levels of socio-economic disadvantage, increasing the risk of homelessness and the communities capacity to respond.

Integrated and Coordinated Service Delivery

- Integrated service delivery is a challenge for regions as vast as Western NSW and with significant diversity between communities and localities across the region. Developing a joined up and coordinated homelessness service system was seen as critical to delivering reduced rates of homelessness in Western NSW.

- Services identified opportunities to improve case management practices across all support services in the context of developing the capacity of the homelessness service system.

- There is an opportunity to further develop the linkages and partnership activities between mainstream and specialist homeless services.

Building the evidence base

- Building the evidence base around homelessness prevention approaches that are effective in rural, isolated and Aboriginal communities was seen as important by workshop participants. These approaches require cross-sector commitment and improved approaches around data collection, data sharing and project evaluation.

- Lack of accurate data and lack of data sharing between agencies was seen to inhibit effective cross-sector responses to homelessness in the region and was therefore identified as a priority for action.

- It was considered that Aboriginal overcrowding in social housing properties was likely to have been undercounted in the Census.

- A further challenge identified for Western NSW relates to total population decline, a common feature of many rural areas. As resource allocation often aligns with population size rather than relative need, this can have implications for regions where population is reducing but social issues and level of socio economic disadvantage are high. It is noted that demographic changes may include an increased proportional representation of Aboriginal communities.

Homelessness Prevention

- Responding to the needs of people at risk of homelessness due to loss of tenancy (both within the social and private rental sectors) was identified as a key need. There is a gap in tenancy support services in the region to respond to this need, particularly those focused on social housing and management of debt/financial stress.

- There is a need for more flexible, client focused systems, including shared case management approaches (between mainstream and specialist services) to help clients, particularly Aboriginal people to sustain tenancies.

- Effective homelessness prevention requires support for people in all tenures including developing effective linkages with the private housing sector.

Young people

- There is a current lack of programs and resources to deal with young people presenting with complex, multiple needs

- Areas where additional effort to prevent homelessness is required includes prevention of institutional exits into homelessness. One option identified by workshop participants was the potential extension of the Juvenile Justice and Corrections diversion programme.

5 PRIORITY AREAS FOR ACTION 2010-2014

Through a process of prioritisation of issues, the Regional Homelessness Action Plan Workshop identified the following four priorities for Western NSW RHAP 2010-2014:

- ➢ Sustaining tenancies
- ➢ Housing and support for young people
- ➢ Building the evidence base, improving data collection and information sharing
- ➢ Integrated and accessible service delivery

These priority areas aim to give effect to homelessness reform directions and targets set out in the NSW Homelessness Action Plan.

5.1   SUSTAINING TENANCIES

Workshop participants identified the need for intensive tenancy support services Western NSW region focused on reducing evictions by working preventatively with clients to help sustain tenancies in all tenures.

Aboriginal people were identified as a key target group requiring intensive tenancy support. The development of flexible services to respond to Aboriginal homelessness was a high priority for the Western NSW RHAP.

Other target groups highlighted as priorities for tenancy support included families escaping domestic violence, young people, single homeless males and rough sleepers transitioning to long-term housing with support.

Participants identified high levels of debt and financial stress as triggers for homelessness in Western NSW. Financial management education and counselling programmes and 'triggers' to facilitate the participation of individuals in education programmes needed to be developed for the region.

What the research[8] says

- → Actions to prevent the breakdown of Indigenous social housing tenancies can prevent homelessness.
- → Social housing administrative processes can negatively and unnecessarily impact on the success of Indigenous tenancies.

---

[8] Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute *Evidence to Inform NSW Homelessness Action Plan Priorities 2009-10*, May 2009

→ Different concepts of homelessness may aid in responding more effectively, including understandings of kinship structures and connection to place.

→ There is clear evidence that actions to prevent the breakdown of Indigenous social housing tenancies can have a significant effect in preventing homelessness.

→ Building a trusting support relationship takes time; six months may be a minimum threshold for establishing relationship based support.

5.2   HOUSING AND SUPPORT FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Workshop participants identified the need for an integrated case management approach in Western NSW to address young people's needs including homeless Aboriginal mothers aged under 18 years. Young Aboriginal mothers have complex needs and need a range of support services including health, education, employment, wellbeing and family relationships (immediate and extended family). Unique rural issues including isolation, lower incomes, high unemployment, few support services, lack of transport options and lack of training and educational facilities present additional service delivery and accessibility challenges.

What the research says

→ Experiencing homelessness under the age of 18 is a significant risk factor for long term homelessness.

→ Good outcomes have been achieved by Reconnect services that specifically target Indigenous young people through developing relationships with respected elders and employment of Indigenous staff

→ Research shows that on average it takes young people six attempts to find and sustain stable housing.

→ Rural and regional young people have strong connections to place and community

5.3   BUILDING THE EVIDENCE BASE, IMPROVING DATA COLLECTION AND INFORMATION SHARING

Workshop participants identified the need to better capture community needs and perceptions around the factors influencing housing stress, risk of homelessness and unmet housing needs in local communities. Particular issues were identified in relation to over-crowding and the challenges in accurately counting numbers of Aboriginal homeless.

The difficulty of data capture is compounded by the unique characteristics of regional areas which often see people travelling away from their local community pursuing employment, education or visiting extended family.

Improving data collection and sharing of information between agencies and homelessness services will require development of data sharing and collection agreements for implementation across the service system.

The NSW Homelessness Action Plan commits to improving responses to homelessness and further developing our understanding of what works by:

→ Implementing a data development agenda and data collection strategy to assess and measure interventions and outcomes

→ Undertaking collaborative research that leads to best-practice models

→ Mapping and disseminating best practice.

5.4   INTEGRATED AND ACCESSIBLE SERVICE DELIVERY

Workshop participants rated as a priority the need to improve coordination of the homelessness system in the Western NSW region, particularly between specialist and mainstream services and Aboriginal and non Aboriginal services.

Participants identified opportunities to trial new ways of working through brokerage arrangements that could facilitate improved case coordination and more flexible service delivery to ensure clients received the range of mainstream and specialist support services to meet their needs.

Benefits of a coordinated homelessness service system - *what the research says*

Prevention of homelessness and effective responses to homelessness are supported by an integrated and coordinated homelessness service system. According to the AHURI research prevention and early intervention responses to homelessness are most effective when they:

→ Involve mainstream agencies,

→ Support a good understanding risk factors and danger signs, and

→ Involve coordination between government, non-government and emergency agencies in providing housing and support.

6 ACTIONS TO ADDRESS PRIORITY AREAS

Actions under this plan focus on the four priority areas:

- Sustaining tenancies with a focus on Aboriginal tenants
- Housing and support for young people
- Building the evidence base, improving data collection and information sharing
- Integrated and accessible service delivery

State-wide action on implementing service system reform will be undertaken in parallel to regional actions. This work will support regional efforts and aid in further developing regional plans.

6.1 SUSTAINING TENANCIES WITH A FOCUS ON ABORIGINAL TENANTS

Key actions focused on sustaining tenancies in Western NSW are the projects funded under the National Partnership on Homelessness:

- **Sustaining tenancies following exits from correctional facilities**

- **Early intervention in sustaining tenancies project**

Sustaining tenancies following exits from correctional facilities

This project aims to prevent homelessness and reduce recidivism by providing long term accommodation to 15 people exiting correctional facilities, with a focus on Indigenous people. The project will include the establishment of transitional/community support workers to provide individual case management and support to offenders throughout their transitional period from custody back into the community.

Emphasis is on assisting ex-offenders to access and sustain their tenancies, and linking them to appropriate support. The target group is those at high risk of re-offending. Support is to be provided by non-government organisations. Broken Hill is the location for the initial stages of the project with the intention to expand into other areas over time.

Early Intervention in Sustaining Tenancies Project

This project will primarily focus on sustaining tenancies to prevent homelessness and reduce the significant number of people, particularly Aboriginal people, accessing SAAP services and being evicted from long term accommodation in Western NSW. This objective was a priority identified in the Aboriginal consultation workshop undertaken in the region. The project will prioritise Aboriginal families and focus on private rental and social housing clients with complex needs in Dubbo, Narromine and Gilgandra. The project will identify at risk tenancies at an early stage and intervene with time-limited case management support and service coordination to prevent NSW Consumer Trade and Tenancy Tribunal action and eviction.

Support will include financial counselling and assistance, linkages to mainstream services and health services including mental health and drug and alcohol services. The initiative will assist in the reform of the homelessness service system in the region by supporting the shift in focus of homelessness specialist and other services from crisis responses to prevention of homelessness. Estimated client numbers: 70 per annum

Additional Focus Areas

While the following activities and tasks are not funded under the National Partnership on Homelessness, stakeholders involved have indicated that they are prepared to explore the re-alignment of resources, systems and processes in an effort to deliver them.

- Consult with Aboriginal communities in refining and delivering homelessness prevention programs including:
  o Understanding and responding to the transient and migration behaviour of the Aboriginal community
  o Response to generational homelessness behaviours
  o Reduce the reliance on public housing by Aboriginal people through awareness of other accommodation options

- Deliver tenancy support to assist families secure and maintain their tenancies
  o Provision of information on tenancy responsibilities, legal obligations and financial / budget management to improve sustainability of tenancies
  o Build on the Private Rental Brokerage Service model to support access to accommodation for homeless people in the private sector
  o Review preventative strategies to mitigate tenants becoming homeless (eg. Rental Deduction programs)
  o Explore opportunities to expand existing Handyperson programs and initiatives.

- Housing NSW to undertake action to de-concentrate public housing estates in the larger communities of Dubbo, Orange, Bathurst and in the longer term, Lithgow

- Support relationships between social housing providers and Aboriginal organisations to improve access to support for Aboriginal people to assist in maintaining their tenancies
  o Support the introduction of Family Case Management project in Orange
  o Explore processes to keep tenants engaged in their support program (Community Treatment Orders, Work Development Orders, relationship with Guardianship Board
  o Analyse the option of telephone contact with 'at risk' tenancies to identify threats to maintenance of tenancies (potential use of CTTT database as an indicator of 'at risk' tenants)
  o Policy review and possible programs to support entry to private rental or re-entry into social housing following 'Former Unsatisfactory Tenant' classification
  o Healthy Living skills for households and particularly single parents and men
  o Explore with Education (Schools & TAFE) the opportunity to incorporate into the curriculum topics relating to sustaining tenancies, financial management, healthy living skills.

- Implement Community Offence Support Programs which provide support and accommodation to people following their exit from correctional facilities in Western NSW.

- Consider extending joined up service, case management and family support models to housing by using lessons from the HASI Wellbeing Cell pilot in Bourke
  - Introduce the Housing Pathways project to offer common access points to social housing
  - Employ sound processes to identify client needs and make appropriate allocations for accommodation
  - Develop process to identify 'at risk' tenants and link to support before their tenancy is lost

- Provide tenant advocacy and support and develop relationships with real estate agents to improve access to the private rental market, particularly in bigger centres.
  - Working through the implications of TICA on access to private rental housing

- Consider Aboriginal and local community employment / participation clauses in contracts funded under the Homelessness Action Plan project.

- Advocate with local Councils to establish affordable housing plans for development in their LGA
  - Discuss with stakeholders the impact on housing market from fluctuating mining activities (Cobar, Condobolin and Broken Hill) and explore strategies to mitigate negative impacts

- Identify accommodation options within existing assets
  - Audit of vacant properties in social housing
  - Audit of vacant private homes in Far West communities
  - Review of under-utilised properties in social housing and support the introduction of Housing Pathways (across the social housing sector)

6.2 HOUSING AND SUPPORT FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Young Aboriginal Parents Project

2006 Census data and SAAP NDCA data indicates that homeless people in Western NSW are younger than NSW as a whole and 6% of the Aboriginal homeless population is located in Western NSW. Overcrowding in Aboriginal households and support for young Aboriginal parents was a priority identified in the Aboriginal consultation workshop undertaken in the region. The project will provide appropriate long term accommodation and support in Dubbo to young Aboriginal parents, including parents who are under the age of 18.

The project will also support young parents to maintain existing tenancies. This model is also designed to reduce Aboriginal overcrowding by enabling new parents to access housing rather than moving into, or between the homes of other family members. The project will also improve local interagency coordination and collaboration within Dubbo in responding to homelessness and the development of prevention strategies for young parents and identify and resolve barriers to the effective provision of tenancy support services to young parents aged under 18 years. Estimated client numbers: 30 per annum

Additional Focus Areas

While the following activities and tasks are not funded under the National Partnership on Homelessness, stakeholders involved have indicated that they are prepared to explore the re-alignment of resources, systems and processes in an effort to deliver them.

- Provide integrated housing and support for young people, with a focus on young Aboriginal mothers who are experiencing homelessness or who are at risk of homelessness
  - Explore the possibility of a 'Birthing Program' in Dubbo to provide appropriate short term accommodation for mothers accessing pre and post natal support.
  - Aboriginal Flexible Respite Program (for mothers with a disability)
  - Indigenous Parenting Support Service (Wellington – AMS, Walgett and Wilcannia)
  - Create linkages to Reconnect program
  - Explore support options from Family Relationship Centres, Families NSW and Brighter Futures programs

- Support young Aboriginal mothers maintain connection with education, training and employment

- Support young women and children who experience domestic and family violence to remain safe in their homes and communities where possible

- Investigate options to support youth to obtain accommodation in suitable areas where they are attending studies or short term employment, to reduce overcrowding issues

- Develop pathways for persons under 18 years of age to obtain and maintain sustainable long term accommodation

6.3 BUILDING THE EVIDENCE BASE, IMPROVING DATA COLLECTION AND INFORMATION SHARING

A key action focused on building the evidence base is the project funded under the National Partnership on Homelessness:

Research project – Aboriginal overcrowding in accommodation in remote locations

This project aims to identify responses to address indigenous homelessness, particularly homelessness caused by overcrowding. The project will include research to understand Aboriginal overcrowding in remote and very remote locations (Coonamble and Bourke) across all tenure types.

Additional Focus Areas

While the following activities and tasks are not funded under the National Partnership on Homelessness, stakeholders involved have indicated that they are prepared to explore the re-alignment of resources, systems and processes in an effort to deliver them.

- Analyse overcrowding data / survey and consider the potential application to other remote Aboriginal communities

- Develop a process to capture local datasets to assist in building a picture of Western NSW using housing data, spatial data, Local Government social plans, Centrelink etc.
  - Scope the data need
  - Resolve the mechanisms for data capture
  - Identify the key indicators to be accepted for measuring local homelessness rates

- Share relevant data to establish the evidence base to assist in program funding / allocation of resources in the region.

- Support the necessary reforms in human service provision to improve homelessness outcomes
  - Support the SAAP reforms
  - Support the reforms to the social housing sector, both in relation to the community housing and Indigenous community housing sectors

- Implement an evaluation and research strategy within each funded project to assess the effectiveness and efficiency of initiatives

- Support established local Aboriginal organisations to improve collection of demographic data relating to Aboriginal communities as part of government social planning processes

- Support ABS pilot in Dubbo to improve reliability of Census data collected

- Gather information on the accessibility of rental markets, analyse and report to housing networks

6.4 INTEGRATED AND ACCESSIBLE SERVICE DELIVERY

Intensive Case Management support for Single Men with Complex Needs Project

According to the SAAP NDCA data Western NSW has a much greater proportion of single men in SAAP compared to NSW (64% compared to 42%). The SAAP data also indicates that around 50% of SAAP clients are Aboriginal compared to 15% in NSW. This project will provide integrated and intensive case management support for single men with mental health and/or drug and alcohol issues to exit SAAP into long term accommodation with sustained support, with a focus on Aboriginal men.

The project also includes a prevention and early intervention support component. Support will include advocacy with private rental providers, generalist support and assistance to access both social housing and private rental, linkages to mainstream services and health services including mental health and drug and alcohol services. The project will also identify systemic barriers across the human service system for single men with complex needs including Aboriginal men who are leaving SAAP services. The project aims to develop and implement strategies to overcome these barriers in a way that assists in reshaping the human services system to better respond to meeting the housing needs of the target group. Estimated client numbers: 27 per annum.

Additional Focus Areas

While the following activities and tasks are not funded under the National Partnership on Homelessness, stakeholders involved have indicated that they are prepared to explore the re-alignment of resources, systems and processes in an effort to deliver them.

- Develop a coordinated approach to the provision of housing and support across the region through the establishment of Housing Networks, involving key housing providers and specialist homelessness services in identified locations across the region.

- Make homelessness services more accessible and responsive to Aboriginal people through building linkages between mainstream and Aboriginal services.

- Develop relationships between specialist homelessness services, social housing providers and the private sector to raise awareness of the range of supports available to tenants.

- Build and strengthen the capacity of the overall service system and workforce to deliver integrated and flexible responses
    - Improve staff competencies in identifying homeless indicators, understanding the service system and supporting clients
    - Locate some accommodation services in the remote communities for more personal and direct support

- Use brokerage funding to deliver appropriate, flexible and coordinated services to people experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness
    - Specialist Services Brokerage Fund (Dubbo)
    - Building Stronger Communities in Dubbo, Orange and Bathurst

- Develop cross sector training and development approaches to improve identification of people at risk of, or experiencing homelessness

7 WESTERN NSW REGIONAL HOMELESSNESS ACTION PLAN SUMMARY ACTIONS

This section summarises agreed actions for priority areas to be implemented over the four year period to 2014. Actions are in addition to or build on those identified in the NSW Homelessness Action Plan.It is noted that the agreed actions are an initial response to the issues identified in this Plan. Actions will be further developed and refined over time.

Priority Focus Area (1): Sustaining tenancies					
NSW Priorities					
• *Improve identification of and responses to homelessness by mainstream and specialist support services*					
• *Deliver integrated service responses*					
• *Prevent eviction from all kinds of tenures*					
• *Transition and maintain people exiting statutory care / correctional and health facilities into appropriate long-term accommodation*					

Actions	**Lead Agency**	**Partners**	**Milestones**		
			6 months	**1 year**	**3 years**
1.1 Sustaining tenancies following exits from correctional facilities (***National Partnership on Homelessness project).*** Emphasis is on assisting ex-offenders particularly Indigenous to access and sustain their tenancies. The target group is those at high risk of re-offending. Broken Hill is the location for the initial stages of the project with potential expansion into other locations. Estimated client numbers: 15 p.a.[9]	NSW Corrective Services	Human Service Agencies, Govt & NGOs	Tender complete Provider confirmed Implementation commenced	Broken Hill service established	Expansion into other locations such as Dubbo or Dareton based on clients needs and available resources

---

[9] For National Partnership on Homelessness projects, the number of clients refers to the number to be assisted at any one time based on a full 12 months of operation

1.2 Early Intervention in Sustaining Tenancies Project. (*National Partnership on Homelessness project).*** This project will primarily focus on sustaining tenancies to prevent homelessness and reduce the significant number of people, particularly Aboriginal people, accessing SAAP services and being evicted from long term accommodation in Western NSW. The project will commence in Dubbo with expansion to Narromine & Gilgandra. Estimated client numbers: 70 p.a.	Housing NSW	Human Service Agencies, Govt & NGOs	Tender complete Provider confirmed Implementation commenced	Dubbo service established	Expansion into Narromine & Gilgandra
1.3 Deliver a range of tenancy support services to assist families secure and maintain their tenancies through use of existing successful models	Housing NSW	Fair Trading Centrelink Community Services Social housing providers	Review the range of existing services, assess access barriers and potential for improved coordination	Implement agreed approaches	Evaluate strategy
1.4 Build the relationships between social housing providers and Aboriginal organisations as one strategy to assist Aboriginal households maintain their tenancies	Housing NSW	Social housing providers			

Priority Focus Area (2): Housing and Support for Young Aboriginal Parents

NSW Priorities

- *Provide safe, appropriate long-term accommodation and/or support to people experiencing domestic and family violence, relationship and family breakdown and at key transition points*
- *Provide models of supported accommodation suitable for different target groups*

Actions	Lead Agency	Partners	Milestones		
			6 months	1 year	3 years
2.1 Young Aboriginal Parents Project *(National Partnership on Homelessness project)* The project will provide long term accommodation and support in Dubbo to young Aboriginal parents, including parents who are under the age of 18. The project will also support young parents to maintain existing tenancies. Estimated client numbers: 30 per annum	Housing NSW	Human Service Agencies, Govt & NGOs	Tender complete Provider confirmed Implementation commenced	Service established Barriers identified & strategies identified	Strategies implemented Exit strategy to establish as BAU

Priority Focus Area (3): Building the evidence base					
Actions	**Lead Agency**	**Partners**	**Milestones**		
			6 months	**1 year**	**3 years**
3.1 Research project – Aboriginal overcrowding in accommodation in remote locations *(National Partnership on Homelessness project)* This project aims to identify responses to address indigenous homelessness, particularly homelessness caused by overcrowding. The project will focus on Coonamble and Bourke.	Housing NSW	Human Service Agencies, Govt & NGOs	Consultation with sample communities completed Surveys conducted in Bourke & Coonamble	Survey data analysed Report completed	Recommendations considered Possible expansion of research project into other communities Strategies developed and implemented to address overcrowding issues
3.2 Develop a process to better capture and share data to improve understanding of homelessness in Western NSW including Aboriginal homelessness	Housing NSW	Human Service Agencies, NGOs	Research available data sources and data collection methods	Develop project scope, commence implementation	Review implemented approach
3.3 Implement an evaluation and research strategy for projects funded under the National Partnership on Homelessness	Housing NSW	Human Service Agencies, NGOs	Develop project scope		

Priority Focus Area (4): Integrated and accessible service delivery					

NSW Priorities:

- *Improve identification of and responses to homelessness by mainstream and specialist support services*
- *Deliver integrated service responses*
- *Promote partnerships between all levels of government, business, consumers and the not-for profit sectors*
- *Provide models of accommodation with support that are suitable for different target groups*

Actions	Lead Agency	Partners	Milestones		
			6 months	1 year	3 years
4.1 Intensive Case Management support for Single Men with Complex Needs Project. *(National Partnership on Homelessness project)* This project will provide integrated and intensive case management support for single men with mental health and/or drug and alcohol issues to exit SAAP into long term accommodation with sustained support, with a focus on Aboriginal men. Bathurst will be the initial location with expansion into Orange. Estimated client numbers: 27 per annum.	NSW Community Services	Human Service Agencies, NGOs	Tender complete Provider confirmed Implementation commenced	Bathurst service established	Expansion of service into Orange Support for single men suffering mental health issues or exiting mental health facilities established
4.2 Make homelessness services more accessible and responsive to Aboriginal people through building linkages between mainstream and Aboriginal services.	Community Services	Specialist homelessness services Social housing providers	Assess current barriers to access of services	Develop and implement strategies to reduce barriers	Evaluate effectiveness of strategies

8. Reporting and Accountability

The NSW Homelessness Action Plan includes a commitment to establish a governance mechanism to oversee the implementation of the Plan that promotes partnerships between all levels of government, the non-government sector, consumer groups and the broader community, including the business sector.

Since that time, a governance framework has been established to oversee the implementation of the NSW Homelessness Action Plan. This framework recognises that effective governance for whole of Government and whole of community planning and delivery of the projects and initiatives under the NSW Homelessness Action Plan requires accountability, consultation and relationships, and that the strength of the overall governance structure relies on the effectiveness of each of these mechanisms.

The governance framework under the NSW Homelessness Action Plan comprises:
- Regional Homelessness Committees
- Regional Manager Clusters
- Homelessness Interagency Committee
- Justice & Human Services Chief Executive Officers Committee
- NSW Premier's Council on Homelessness.

Regional Homelessness Committees, chaired by Housing NSW, are required to report on the implementation of the Regional Homelessness Action Plans to Regional Manager Clusters and the NSW Homelessness Interagency Committee. Progress against the Regional Homelessness Action Plans is reported on an annual basis through the NSW State Plan.

Regional Homelessness Committees are also responsible for ensuring that relevant stakeholders within the region are aware of and have an opportunity to provide input into the ongoing development and implementation of the Regional Homelessness Action Plans.

APPENDIX 1 WORKSHOP ATTENDEES

Western NSW ATSI Regional Homelessness Action Plan Workshop
17th February 2010 Dubbo

ORGANISATION
Aboriginal Affairs NSW
Aboriginal Housing Office
Aboriginal Lands Council
Bourke Community Working Party
Brewarrina Community Working Party
Cobar Community Working Party
Dubbo Community Working Party
Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs
Forbes
Greater Western Area Health Service
Housing NSW
Housing NSW – Homelessness Unit
Indigenous Coordination Centre
NSW Aboriginal Affairs
Nyngan Aboriginal Lands Council
Ourgunya
Peak Hill Aboriginal Lands Council
Richmond Fellowship
Trangie Aboriginal Lands Council
Walgett Community Working Party
Weilmoringle Community Working Party
Western Zone Aboriginal Lands Council
Wilcannia Safe House

Western NSW Regional Homelessness Action Plan Workshop
18th February 2010 Dubbo

ORGANISATION
Bathurst Regional Council
Bathurst Women & Children's Refuge
Bathurst Women's Housing Program
Brewarrina Shire Council
CentaCare
Central Tablelands Housing Association
Centrelink
Compass - Community Housing Provider
Department of Community Services
Department of Health
Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs
Dubbo City Council
Dubbo Womens Housing
Edith Edwards Women's Centre Inc Bourke
Emergency Accommodation
Greater Western Area Health Service
Head Teacher Community Services TAFE
Housing NSW
Homelessness Unit – Housing NSW
Lightning Ridge Safe House
Lithgow Community Projects
Mackillop Rural Community Services
Mid-Western Regional Council
Narromine Shire Council
Orange City Council
Richmond Fellowship
St Vincent de Paul
Sturt House
SW Tenants Advice and Advocacy Service
The Benevolent Society
Veritas Organisation
Warren Shire Council
Weddin Shire Council
Wellington Shire Council