

Homelessness

Providing Support and Shelter



The Liberal-led Government has a proud record of supporting our community.

Central to this is our commitment to reducing homelessness and addressing the needs of the homeless, in partnership with the not-for-profit sector.

A re-elected Liberal Government will maintain its close partnership with the not-for-profit sector to deliver vital services for the most vulnerable members of our community.

Fast Facts

- The latest Census data (2011) indicates there are an estimated 9,600 people who are homeless in WA, with just over half in the metropolitan area. However, thousands more access homelessness support services each year.
- The Department for Child Protection and Family Support (CPFS) works with government agencies and community service providers to plan and deliver homelessness services to respond to the needs of vulnerable Western Australians.
- These services include crisis and transitional accommodation, rough sleeper programs, day centres, soup kitchens, tenancy support services, and family and domestic violence services.
- The State Government also provides a mix of social housing (accommodation provided at nominal rent for people on very low incomes), emergency accommodation, transitional housing and Keystart affordable home ownership schemes including low-deposit loans and shared equity.



Our Record

Since 2008, this Government has:

- Transformed the relationship between government and non-government service providers through initiatives such as the \$604 million funding package, which enabled the sector to improve salaries and conditions for its staff and ensure continuity and sustainability of care for Western Australians in need.
- Worked with the not-for-profit sector to deliver a range of innovative crisis and short-term accommodation facilities and services, including:
 - Foyer Oxford, an innovative transitional housing project providing accommodation, support and training for youth who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. The Foyer, located on the site of the North Metropolitan TAFE in Leederville, provides accommodation for up to 98 youth and training is delivered by TAFE. The facility is run by Anglicare WA and Foundation Housing, and aims to help its occupants find a permanent home and employment as quickly as possible. The project was made possible by a \$17.3 million contribution from the Liberal-led Government and Lotterywest, in addition to ongoing operational funding from the Government;
 - Tom Fisher House, an overnight homelessness shelter for men in central Perth run by the St Vincent de Paul Society, which provides overnight accommodation and basic support for chronically homeless men. The State Government provided \$5.4 million in land, capital works and operational funding for the project;
 - The 102-bed, four-storey Beacon men's hostel run by the Salvation Army, providing much-needed accommodation and centralised support services for homeless men in the city. The project was built with funding from the State and Federal Governments;
 - St Bartholomew's House, a 148-bed facility in East Perth that provides a range of accommodation services for homeless and aged persons. The State Government provided contributed around \$25 million towards the \$30 million project.



www.waliberal.org.au

Authorised by A.Cox, 2/12 Parliament Place, West Perth WA 6005.



Homelessness

Providing Support and Shelter



- Established new short-stay accommodation facilities in Kalgoorlie (41 people) and Derby (54 people). Facilities cater for visitors from remote communities and provides both short-term accommodation and support services for Aboriginal people who would ordinarily sleep rough or stay with friends or relatives in and around the two towns. A third facility is under construction in Broome and expected to be complete by December 2017.
- Provided additional services and accommodation for women and children who are at risk of homelessness due to family and domestic violence, including new refuges in metropolitan and regional areas.
- Delivered on the State's first ever Affordable Housing Target of providing 20,000 additional affordable homes five years ahead of schedule. A revised target of 30,000 by 2020 has now been set and in May 2015, the Government announced a \$560 million investment to deliver an additional 1,500 homes, including 1,000 social housing dwellings to halve the number of seniors and families on the priority waitlist for social housing by 30 June 2017. Construction contracts have been finalised for 600 new houses to house 2,800 seniors and families with children.

Our Commitment

A Liberal Government will:

- Provide an additional \$750,000 over three years to the Salvation Army to allow it to run its Beacon homeless hostel at full capacity.
 - The Liberal-led Government recognises the important work the Salvation Army has provided at its Beacon hostel in Northbridge since 2014. It provides crisis and transitional accommodation and associated support services for up to 102 homeless men and women.
 - The Government contributed \$16.5 million to the construction of Beacon. However, the Salvation Army has advised it has insufficient ongoing funds to cover the operation of all beds at the facility and was forced to close 25 beds in July 2016. Like many community organisations, the Salvation Army is dealing with diminishing donations from the corporate sector.
 - This additional funding would complement the \$8.5 million a year currently provided by the State Government to the Salvation Army to operate 14 services across the State.
- Work with not-for-profits to investigate options for a second Foyer development, based on the strong success of Foyer Oxford.
 - The Foyer Oxford development was the first purpose-built facility, and the largest of its kind, for youth at risk of homelessness in Australia. It is co-located with the North Metropolitan TAFE to provide its occupants with access to training and education. A report into the project found that in a six-month period from January to June 2016, 92 per cent of the youths who left the Foyer had secured long-term accommodation and 85 per cent were engaged in ongoing training or employment.
 - A second facility would be developed with contributions from the corporate sector and government.
- Continue our partnership with and funding of not-for-profit sector. This Government's record of support for the sector means we now spend \$1.65 billion a year on support services for the most vulnerable members of our community.



www.waliberal.org.au

Authorised by A.Cox, 2/12 Parliament Place, West Perth WA 6005.

