



**Minister for Child Protection; Community Services;
Seniors and Volunteering; Women's Interests; Youth**

Our ref: 36-07454
Your ref: Petition No. 137

Hon Brian Ellis MLC
Chair
Standing Committee on Environment
and Public Affairs
Parliament House
PERTH WA 6000

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Brian".

Dear Mr Ellis

Thank you for your correspondence dated 24 May 2012, regarding Petition No 137 – Emergency Accommodation for the Homeless.

In 2011-2012, through the joint Commonwealth/State National Affordable Housing Agreement, the Department of Child Protection provides annual funding of approximately \$43 million for specialist homelessness services for people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, including crisis and transitional accommodation for young people, adults, families, women, and children experiencing family and domestic violence.

In addition, through the National Partnership Agreement on Homelessness (NPAH), the State Government provides \$68 million in funds to address homelessness by intervening early so that fewer people remain or re-enter homelessness, and improving and expanding the service system.

New homelessness accommodation is currently under construction with funding from Commonwealth and State sources including NPAH, National Building and Jobs Plan stimulus funding as follows:

- St Bartholomew's House facility in Lime Street East Perth;
- the Salvation Army's redevelopment of the Lentara crisis facility for homeless men; Foyer Oxford in Leederville; and
- a new Acute Homelessness night shelter to be located in inner city Perth.

An additional \$8.3 million will be spent over two years from 2011-2012 to 2012-2013 providing a 15 per cent price adjustment to the State component of joint Commonwealth and State homelessness contracts. This additional spending is commensurate with the price adjustment provided to eligible contracts under the Component 1 – Sustainable Funding and Contracting with the not-for-profit sector initiative. The additional spending is provided until 2012-13 at which time these contracts are to be renegotiated with the Commonwealth.

To put turn-away rates into perspective, it is important to include the number of people who have continued in accommodation, as well as the number of people requesting new immediate accommodation.

In 2010-11 on an average day, approximately 1,232 people per day either requested new immediate accommodation or continued in accommodation. Of these, 30 (2.4 per cent) people requesting new immediate accommodation were turned away, and 1,202 people were newly accommodated or continued in accommodation. In 2009-10, 50 people requesting new immediate accommodation were turned away. It is anticipated, with the current initiatives, that this improvement in the turn away rate will continue.

I trust this information is helpful.

Yours sincerely



Robyn McSweeney MLC

**MINISTER FOR CHILD PROTECTION; COMMUNITY SERVICES;
SENIORS AND VOLUNTEERING; WOMEN'S INTERESTS; YOUTH**

15 JUN 2012

PUBLIC