



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

Our ref: 36-07454

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

*Brian*

Dear Mr Ellis

Thank you for your letter dated 24 November 2011 requesting my comments on Petition No 137 – Emergency Accommodation for the Homeless and submissions from petitioners.

In 2011-12, through the joint Commonwealth/State National Affordable Housing Agreement the Department for 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 become homeless. This assists in breaking the cycle of homelessness so few people remain or re-enter homelessness, and improving and expanding the service system.

Recent initiatives to address homelessness include:

- the 'Street to Home' program, which was funded through NPAH. This program provides people sleeping rough in the Perth metropolitan area with outreach, wrap-around support, accommodation and linkage to a range of specialist services that meet their needs;
- funding in the 2011-12 State budget to build and operate an Acute Homelessness Night Shelter to be located in inner city Perth;
- the new St Bartholomew's House facility in Lime Street, East Perth which is under construction. The facility is expected to be completed in mid- 2012 and will provide 54 long-term accommodation units, 12 crisis units, 42 transitional lodging-house units and a 40-bed aged-care facility;
- Foyer Oxford which will be built in Leederville and will accommodate 98 young people including people who are at risk of or experiencing homelessness; and

- the redevelopment of the Salvation Army's Lentara crisis facility for homeless men, which is expected to be completed by late 2012 will provide an additional 25 beds.

I trust this information is helpful and thank you for the invitation to comment.

Yours sincerely



Robyn McSweeney MLC

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

13 DEC 2011

**PUBLIC**