



## Information Sheet

February 2009

### Commonwealth Social Housing Initiative

The Commonwealth Social Housing Initiative will provide up to \$6 billion to fund the construction of approximately 20,000 new public and community housing dwellings, to be largely completed by December 2010.

This would be an increase of about 5 percent on current public and community housing stock across the country.

The initiative has been announced as part of a \$42 billion economic stimulus plan responding to the global financial crisis and aims to improve social equity by greatly accelerating progress on the goal of halving homelessness by 2020 and by reducing the number of low-income households paying more than half their income in rent.

The first stage of the program is to fund some 2,300 new dwellings by bringing forward construction already approved. The remainder of the funding will be allocated to address areas of most urgent need.

State governments will be responsible for conducting Commonwealth approved tender processes for the construction of the additional dwellings. Tenders will be structured to include spot purchases of new house and land packages to ensure both large and small builders benefit from increased construction activity.

The initiative will require the states to deliver reforms to public and community housing to improve efficiency, reduce the concentration of stock and promote economic participation.

The initiative also aims to provide an important stimulus to the housing construction sector with objective of providing about 15,000 jobs over the next two years.

The program also provides up to \$400 million for repairs to existing public housing dwellings to be undertaken in 2008-09 and 2009-10. This is to allow approximately 2,500 dwellings to be retained in public housing that would otherwise have been sold.

---

*CHP is the peak Victorian body representing individuals and organisations with a stake or interest in homelessness. Our mission is to work towards ending homelessness through leadership in policy, advocacy and sector development.*

#### **For further information, please contact**

**David Wright-Howie**

Senior Policy Officer

Council to Homeless Persons

w 9419 8699

e [david@chp.org.au](mailto:david@chp.org.au)

Page 1 of 1