

# **Housing and Homelessness Ministers' Meeting**

**19 May 2017**

## **Communiqué**

Housing and Homelessness Ministers met in Adelaide on 19 May 2017 to consider critical housing and homelessness issues in the context of the recent Federal Budget.

Ministers last met in November 2016.

### **National Housing and Homelessness Reform**

The Commonwealth Government provided an update on housing affordability measures in the 2017-18 Federal Budget. States and Territories welcomed the announcement that homelessness funding would now be ongoing – something that Ministers at these meetings have called for since 2015.

The proposed National Housing and Homelessness Agreement (NHHA), to take effect from 2018-19, was the subject of much discussion. This included the possibility of new targets and how policy issues will be managed. Ministers noted that many complex factors drive the demand for social housing, homelessness services and affordable housing. Solutions involve housing assistance, planning and financing reforms.

Ministers agreed that further work is needed to ensure that new funding and policy arrangements will lead to improved housing outcomes for those most in need. This additional work will include considering how homelessness policy is advanced in the context of the new NHHA.

Ministers noted the 2017-18 Homelessness agreement will be expedited.

Ministers also discussed a number of specific policy areas including the Rent Deduction Scheme to sustain tenancies and Defibrillators in Retirement Villages.

### **Way Forward**

Ministers agreed they would meet again in Tasmania by November 2017 and report further progress on the NHHA.