



**Shining the green light on homelessness:
The changing environment of homeless service delivery**





Homelessness in NSW

- Highest number of homeless people in 2006 (27,374) of all jurisdictions
- Share lowest rate per 10,000 of population (42 in 10,000) with Vic and ACT
- Overall increase in total number but no change in rate at national level
- Young people account for the highest proportion of homeless people
- Small increase in the proportion of homeless households that are families at national level



Context

- Auditor General's Report: *Responding to Homelessness* (May 2007)
- Development of a Homelessness Strategic Framework for NSW
- Housing NSW Corporate Plan – Major Outcome Area 1
- Partnership Against Homelessness – Work Plan 2007-11
- COAG Working Group on Housing – *A Place to Call Home*
- Commonwealth's Green/White paper process

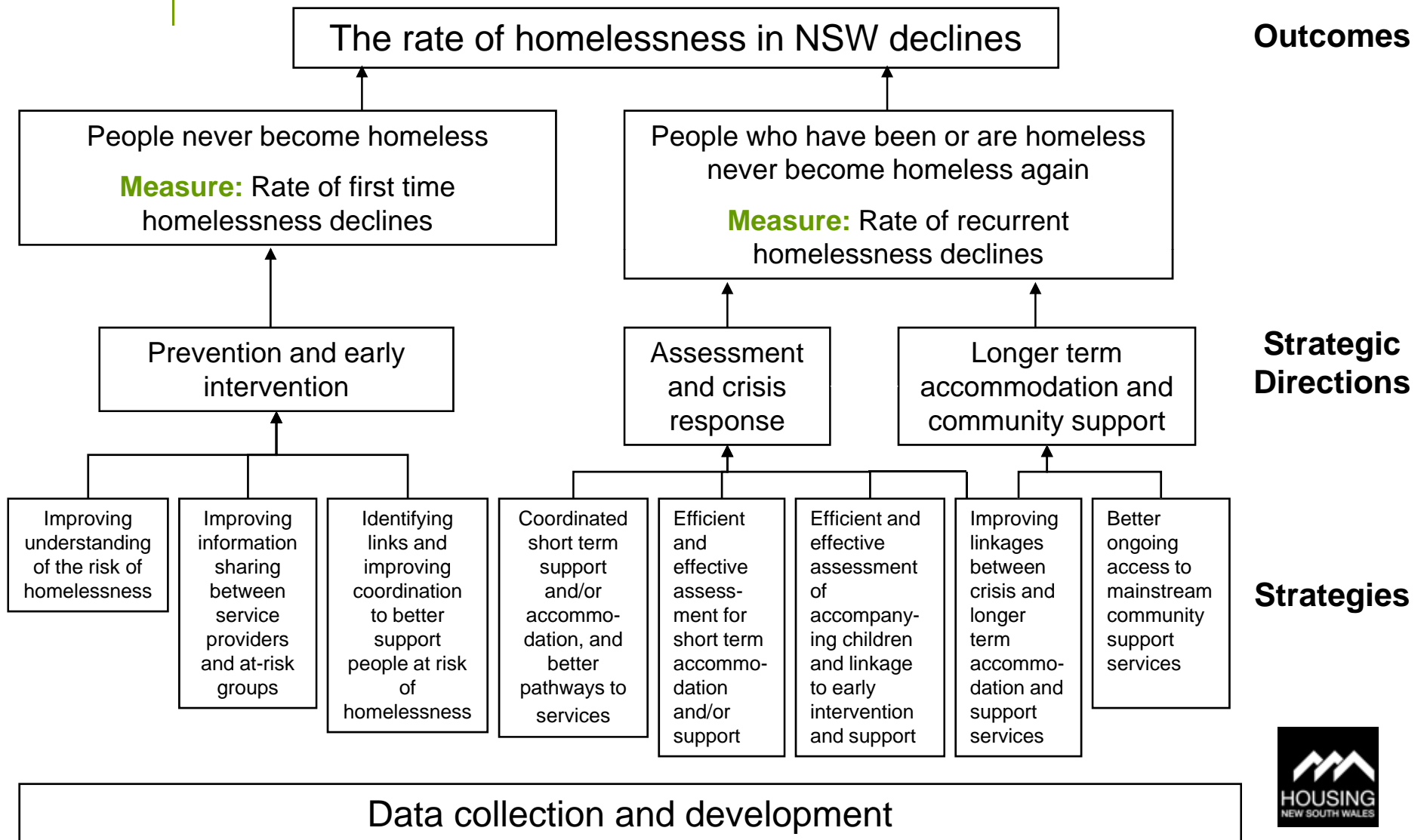


NSW Homelessness Strategic Framework – Stage 1 development process

- Review of other jurisdictions
- Mapping of NSW service system and links with Commonwealth
- Development of results logic
- Consultation with peaks
- Wide-scale consultation underway
- Current opportunity to provide written feedback



Homelessness Strategic Framework – Stage 1 draft





Strategic Direction 1: Prevention and early intervention

- Linkages to State Plan PDPs and existing service planning mechanisms (including data collection)
- Better research and information sharing between agencies
- Better information resources for at-risk groups
- Planned and coordinated support for people exiting institutions
- Coordinated support for people in private rental



Strategic Direction 2: Assessment and crisis response

- Improved coordination between TA and SAAP
- Consolidated model for outreach services for implementation in areas of high need
- Coordinated approach to homeless information and referral telephone services
- Common assessment tool for referral to, and use by, specialist homelessness support and accommodation services



Strategic Direction 3: Longer term accommodation and community support

- Coordinated approach to assist SAAP clients to sustain tenancies
- Regional coordination mechanisms
- Common access to social housing connected to entry points in homelessness service system
- Mechanisms for coordinated and active referral between homeless and mainstream community support services
- Develop best practice service model for homeless people with complex needs for implementation in areas of high need



NSW Framework – Next steps

- Development of indicators
- Finalisation of Framework following release of Commonwealth White paper
- Development of Action Plan to support implementation of Framework
- Establishment of suitable governance mechanisms



Addressing chronic homelessness – 'street to home' models

- Based on Common Ground / Housing First approach in United States
- Provides long-term accommodation with support
- Effective and cost effective
- Establishment of the Common Ground Australia alliance
- Existing NSW projects include: My Place, Port Jackson, Complex Needs Coordination Project / Housing First



My Place Homeless Leases

- 60 private leases linked to outreach support
- Tenancies managed by housing associations with expertise in delivering supported accommodation
- Clients provided with support to overcome the difficulties in moving from chronic homelessness into independent living and supported through transition to independence once tenancy has commenced



My Place Homeless Leases

- 90% of clients supported have succeeded in sustaining a tenancy
- 66% have sustained tenancies beyond 12 months
- Few arrears or defaults on rent
- Minimal instances of property damage
- Improved level of participation in employment
- Re-engagement with family and community



A Place to Call Home

- 5-year Commonwealth program to reduce homelessness
- \$150m for 600 new dwellings across Australia
- States/Territories must match Commonwealth contribution
- Tenants to be supported for at least 12 months
- Staged roll out of 155 dwellings



A Place to Call Home

- In first year use existing public, community and AHO stock
- Central Sydney, Newcastle, Wollongong, Western Sydney
- Housing First approach
- Targets are rough sleepers, families with children, including Indigenous families
- Clients must be eligible for public housing with final allocation decision made by housing provider