

National Housing Conference 2005

Title: Where To When The Silos Come Down: Queensland Government Responses to Homelessness
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Abstract

In June 2005, the Queensland Government announced the commitment of \$235.5 million over 4 years to develop and implement a coordinated Queensland Government response to homelessness. The announcement follows several years of relationship and capacity building in State Government agencies and foreshadows some significant changes in the way Queensland responds to homelessness.

The coordinated response has been informed by a conceptualisation of the service system accessed by homeless people in Queensland and an analysis of Queensland Government policies that impacted on homelessness. The analysis formed the basis for the development of an integrated service model targeting people who are homeless particularly those without any shelter.

Thirteen Queensland Government agencies have committed to Queensland's coordinated response to homelessness. In 2004, a Chief Executives' Sub-committee on Homelessness (with reference to public intoxication) was established. The Sub-committee, which reports directly to the Premier, has been tasked with developing an action plan to guide existing and newly funded responses to homelessness.

Significant new funds have been allocated to addressing homelessness and public space issues over the next four years. These new funds will be used to fill gaps and remove barriers in existing responses to homelessness and public space issues and create an integrated service response for people who are homeless.

While it is too early to judge the impact of Queensland's new coordinated responses to homelessness and impossible to estimate the impact without formal evaluation, Queensland's approach is well placed to deliver positive outcomes for the people it targets.

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