



A3HN – Briefing Document

As of 26 April 2023

OUR VISION

A health-informed end to homelessness in Australia.

OUR MISSION

1. To promote collaboration amongst the healthcare, homeless and housing sectors to drive innovative responses to the health and housing needs of the homeless.
2. To ensure the health-informed implementation of the Advance to Zero Campaign to end all homelessness in Australia starting with rough sleeping.
3. To provide a national forum for the sharing of experiences and the development of new tools, guidelines, models of care and other resources to support practitioners in the health, housing and homelessness sectors.
4. To support and develop strategic national initiatives to address the health and housing needs of people experiencing homelessness in Australia.
5. To advocate, with local and national partners, for greater funding and a greater role for health care systems in contributing to an end to homelessness in Australia.

OUR WORK

1. Establish the Network's governance, administrative and membership structures.
2. Get key players/influencers in the health sector on board.
3. Increased investment from the NHMRC, AHURI, Philanthropy and elsewhere in this work.
4. Developing policy papers to inform and support advocacy for more joined-up policy making and investment.
5. Raising awareness of, better counting and supporting efforts to prevent the number of people dying whilst experiencing homelessness each year.
6. Supporting people in the 3H sector generally with upskilling, and encouraging their engagement in the Advance to Zero Campaign to end homelessness.

OUR EVENTS

1. Quarterly online meetings.
2. Workshop at the biennial Advance to Zero Summit.
3. Occasional policy/advocacy forums on particular topics.
4. Annual National Homelessness Deaths Memorial.
5. Training.

RATIONALE

The A3HN has developed its policy asks because:

- Each year we estimate that approximately 424 people die whilst experiencing homelessness.
- People who experience chronic homelessness can die up to 30 years younger than those who are sustainably housed. There is a clear moral case.
- We also know that it is more expensive to leave people in a state of chronic homelessness, to the health system, housing, homelessness and other systems, than to provide permanent supportive housing. There is a clear business case
- Despite having a universal health system, not all Australians enjoy health equity. Access to healthcare for people experiencing homelessness is a big issue.
- As a result, additional pressure is put onto our hospital systems which are already incredibly stretched for a range of reasons.
- Hospital avoidance is everyone's priority, and yet it is the focus of too few.

FURTHER INFORMATION

AAEH - *Leaving No-one Behind – A National Policy for Health Equity, Housing and Homelessness*, available [here](#).

May 2021 National Health, Housing and Homelessness COVID-19 Update Forum [slides](#).

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- NSW No exits from government services into homelessness Framework - [document](#)
- ANZ Journal of Public Health, Homelessness Mortality - [article](#)
- Adelaide Zero Project, Health, Housing and Homelessness Papers - [website](#)
- VicHealth - Housing and Health Research Summary - [website](#)
- Podcast Series - [website](#)
- Medical Journal of Australia - Homeless health care: meeting the challenges of providing primary care - [article](#)
- AIHW - Health of people experiencing Homelessness - [website](#)
- Mind, Mental Health Australia and AHURI - Trajectories: The interplay between mental health and housing pathways - [report](#)
- Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness - The Canadian Network for the Health and Housing of People Experiencing Homelessness - [website](#)
- US - National Health Care for the Homeless Council - [website](#)
- US- Street Medicine Institute - [website](#)
- The Faculty For Homeless and Inclusion Health - [website](#)
- Productivity Commission - Innovations in Care for Chronic Health Conditions - [report](#)
- NSW Intersectoral Homelessness Health Strategy - [report](#)
- The Sick Season - Cold Weather and Mortality in South Australia - [Report](#)
- National Health Care for the Homeless Council - Homeless Mortality Data Toolkit - [Toolkit](#)
- Long-term effects of homelessness on mortality: a 15-year Australian cohort study - [Report](#)
- Housing, Homelessness and Mental Health Training Resource - [website](#)
- Women sleeping rough: The health, social and economic costs of homelessness - [article](#)
- Centre for Homelessness Impact and National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (UK) - Integrating health and social care for people experiencing homelessness: A step-by-step resource for implementing the joint guideline - [document](#)

ABOUT THE AAEH

The Australian Alliance to End Homelessness (AAEH) is an independent champion for preventing and ending street homelessness in Australia since 2013. We recognise that the scale of homelessness in Australia is both preventable and solvable and we are committed to working to ensure that any incidents of homelessness that do occur are rare, brief and a one-time occurrence. The AAEH supports Australian communities to individually and collectively end homelessness, including through a range of Allied Networks such as the A3HN.

GET INVOLVED - CONTACT US

If you would like to get involved with the A3HN, please get in contact. We are also seeking organisational partners to support the this network. If you are interested in partnering, please contact:

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Or the Co-Chairs of the network:

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Have more questions?

Should you have any further questions, please email us at info@aaeh.org.au

Thank you to the A3HN's presenting partner cohealth, without whose support the A3HN would not exist.

