



# ENDING HOMELESSNESS

## Investing in frontline services

The ACT Greens will support people doing it tough

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The ACT Greens are committed to ending homelessness in our city and better funding the homelessness and housing services who support people without somewhere to live.

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ACT homelessness service providers have shown incredible resilience in the face of funding cuts and uncertainty. However, with more homelessness and clients with increasingly complex needs, we must do more to support our frontline services with prevention, early intervention crisis and longer term programs.

### > Funding frontline services

Our frontline homelessness services provide crucial support to many Canberrans doing it tough.

The ACT Greens will:

- » Invest \$4 million in the homelessness sector to ensure that vulnerable Canberrans can get the support they need at the right time, for the right length of time, no matter where they are on the homelessness continuum; and
- » \$2 million over 4 years towards women's crisis accommodation services

### > Build MyHome in Canberra

Many people experiencing homelessness suffer from a mental health disorder of some type and may struggle to engage with mainstream services. To support people with enduring mental illness, we will design and construct MyHome in Canberra - a facility of around 22 individual housing units which will provide a safe and supportive home

and high quality care for people with mental illness, and other support including assistance in cooking, cleaning, budgeting, shopping and gardening. This initiative builds on the incredible success of the CommonGround homelessness project the ACT Greens delivered through the 2012 Parliamentary Agreement.

### > Responding to homelessness through a lens of trauma

The majority of people who find themselves homeless have suffered some kind of trauma in their lives. Addressing homelessness through a lens of understanding trauma and how it impacts on people's lives and decisions, could significantly improve the way that we deliver services.

The ACT Greens will:

- » Invest \$350,000 to develop a system-wide approach to supporting people seeking housing who have a lived experience of trauma; and
- » Invest \$100,000 for resources, professional development and training for the Specialist Housing and Homeless Service Providers

### > Annual Homelessness Summit

The ACT Greens support ACTCOSS's calls for a more genuine whole of government approach to homelessness.

That is why the ACT Greens will:

» Establish an annual Homelessness Summit that brings together representatives from Cabinet, government directorates, and the community and business sectors, to address homelessness and housing challenges in our community.

Each year the forum will produce an ACT Homelessness “white paper” highlighting areas of progress and concerns and suggesting recommendations.