

HOUSING ASSISTANCE ACT 1987

Determination No. 68 of 1992

Under section 12 of the Housing Assistance Act 1987, I make the following housing assistance program:

SUPPORTED ACCOMMODATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

1. NAME OF PROGRAM

The name of this program is the Supported Accommodation Assistance Program and is made pursuant to section 12 of the Housing Assistance Act 1987.

2. PRINCIPLES OF PROGRAM

The primary principle of the program is to ensure that homeless people in crisis in the Territory have access to adequate and appropriate transitional supported accommodation services and related support services. In implementing this principle, assistance provided will also reflect the following detailed principles:

- (i) the focus of the program will be on transitional assistance. Services will be designed to be of varying duration and levels of support to meet the needs of individuals to move towards independent living or other appropriate alternatives;
- (ii) the emphasis will be on ensuring individuals retain maximum independence;
- (iii) there will be early assessment of clients' needs, referral to more appropriate services or programs where required and available, and assistance to secure long term housing alternatives;
- (iv) services will be available to all sections of the community irrespective of sex, marital status, race, religion, disability or life situation;
- (v) services will be sensitive to the problems of homelessness, domestic violence and personal crisis and will actively work to enhance the dignity, self-esteem and independence of clients;
- (vi) services will assist clients in ways which recognise the individual needs of clients, develop clients' independence and enhance their own support network; and
- (vii) priority will be given to services involved in direct service provision for homeless people in crisis and whose focus is on assistance for individual clients.

3. OBJECTS OF PROGRAM

- 3.1 The objective of this program is the provision by Eligible Organisations, with financial assistance from the Commonwealth and the Territory and in accordance with the principles of the Program, of transitional supported accommodation services and related support services to people who are homeless and in crisis to help them move towards independent living, where appropriate, or other alternatives such as long term supported housing, as soon as possible.
- 3.2 The main groups to be targetted by the Program may include
- (a) young people;
 - (b) women and women with children who are homeless as a result of domestic violence;
 - (c) families, including single parent families;
 - (d) single men; and
 - (e) single women.

4. DEFINITIONS AND INTERPRETATION

- 4.1 In this Program except where the contrary intention appears:

"Act" means the Supported Accommodation Assistance Act 1989 of the Commonwealth.

"Agreement" means the agreement entered into between the Commonwealth and the Territory on 11 July 1989 and includes such an agreement as varied and in force from time to time.

"Commissioner" means the Commissioner for Housing appointed under the Housing Assistance Act 1987.

"Plan" means the document prepared in accordance with Clause 11 of the Agreement.

"Service Agreement" means the agreement referred to in clause 10 of this Program.

"Territory" has the same meaning as defined in the Interpretation Act 1967.

"SAAP Funds" means the funds provided for the purposes of this Program.

- 4.2 In this Program unless the contrary intention appears:

4.2.1 a word importing the singular includes the plural and vice versa;

4.2.2 a word importing one gender includes the other gender;

4.2.3 a reference to a clause or subclause is a reference to a clause or subclause of this Program;

4.2.4 a reference to the Act or the Agreement includes that Act or Agreement as amended from time to time;

- 4.2.5 where a word or phrase is given a particular meaning in the Act or Agreement that word or phrase in this Program have corresponding meanings.

5. USE OF FUNDS

- 5.1 All SAAP Funds shall be used in the manner and for purposes consistent with Parts V and VI of the Agreement.

6. ADMINISTRATION OF PROGRAM

- 6.1 The Program shall be administered in accordance with Part VI of the Agreement.

7. PLANNING AND PRIORITIES

- 7.1 The planning and priorities processes under the Program shall be carried out in accordance with the Agreement.

8. ELIGIBILITY FOR ASSISTANCE

- 8.1 Subject to this Program and the Agreement, an organisation shall be eligible for the allocation of assistance and the continuing provision of assistance if the organisation is an Eligible Organisation as defined in the Agreement.

9. ALLOCATION OF ASSISTANCE

- 9.1 Subject to this Program and the Agreement, the Commissioner shall allocate assistance to the Eligible Organisations only in reference to the identified priorities in the Plan, the recommendations of the Joint Officers' Group and the approvals of the joint Territory and Commonwealth Ministers.
- 9.2 Prior to an allocation of assistance proceeding, an Eligible Organisation must demonstrate that it has:
- 9.2.1 appropriate financial and administrative resources;
 - 9.2.2 an appropriate and effective system of management;
 - 9.2.3 objectives which are consistent with the objectives of this Program and the Agreement.
- 9.3 Where an Eligible Organisation does not accept an offer of assistance under the Program within the time specified in the offer, or within any further mutually agreed extension of the time of that offer, the offer shall be deemed to have been refused and the Commissioner shall reallocate the assistance in accordance with the process identified in clause 9.1 above.

10. AGREEMENT WITH ORGANISATIONS

- 10.1 Prior to the grant of assistance to an approved Eligible Organisation, the approved Eligible Organisation shall enter into a Service Agreement in the form and on the terms and conditions required by the Commissioner consistent with the Agreement.

11. FORM OF APPLICATION

- 11.1 Any application for assistance, whether it is an application for additional assistance from an Eligible Organisation already receiving funding under this Program or an initial application from an Eligible Organisation not yet receiving funding under this Program, shall be made on a form approved by the Commissioner and lodged with the Commissioner within the period specified by the Commissioner. The application shall contain such information relating to the applicant as the Commissioner may require.
- 11.2 The Commissioner may from time to time request an applicant to provide in writing further information in connection with an application.
- 11.3 If that information is not provided within the time stipulated by the Commissioner, or in any further mutually agreed extension of the time stipulated, the application shall be deemed to have been withdrawn by the applicant.

12. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- 12.1 An Eligible Organisation that is a party to a Service Agreement shall provide any additional information of the kind specified in the Service Agreement.

13. NOTIFICATION OF DECISIONS

- 13.1 Where this Program requires that notice of a decision of the Commissioner be served, that notice shall be in writing and shall be served by:
- 13.1.1 delivering the notice personally to an officer or employee of the organisation; or
- 13.1.2 posting the notice to the address of the organisation last known to the Commissioner

14. REPORTING

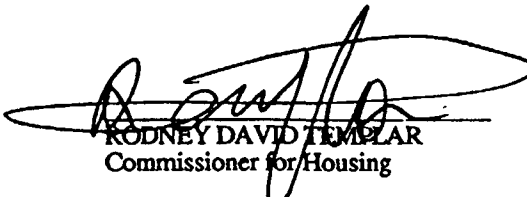
- 14.1 The Commissioner shall provide reports to the Joint Officers' Group on such matters and in such manner and at such time as provided by the Agreement and the Guidelines issued subject to the Agreement.
- 14.2 The Commissioner shall furnish to the Commonwealth Minister information on the operation of the Program in accordance with the Agreement and the Guidelines issued subject to the Agreement.
- 14.3 The Commissioner shall provide to the Commonwealth an annual financial statement in a form determined by the Minister in accordance with the Agreement and the Guidelines issued subject to the Agreement.

15. SECREC

15.1 The Commissioner shall not disclose information obtained in connection with this Program other than:

- 15.1.1** in the performance of his duties or functions under this Program;
- 15.1.2** in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 1989;
- 15.1.3** in accordance with the Privacy Act 1988 (Cth); or
- 15.1.4** where the person or organisation who is the subject of the information consents to its release.

DATE:



RODNEY DAVID TEMPLAR
Commissioner for Housing

APPROVAL

Under section 12 of the Housing Assistance Act 1987 I **APPROVE** the above Supported Accommodation Assistance Program.



TERENCE CONNOLLY
MINISTER FOR HOUSING
AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

- NOTE:**
- 1.** This Program is published pursuant to section 6 of the Subordinate Laws Act 1989
 - 2.** The Act and the Agreement referred to in the Supported Accommodation Assistance Program may be obtained from the SAAP Unit, ACT Housing Trust, 2nd Floor, South Building, Canberra.