

Continuation of homelessness funding welcomed

Thursday 11th May 2017

Karyn Walsh, CEO of Brisbane community organisation Micah Projects, has welcomed the continued funding for homelessness services announced in the Federal Budget.

A new National Housing and Homelessness Agreement (NHHA) will replace the current National Affordable Housing Agreement (NAHA) and National Partnership Agreement on Homelessness (NPAH), with funding for homelessness services and public and community housing maintained at current levels.

Ms Walsh said: "There is still much work ahead to address the housing supply issues facing people who are currently homeless, and we are encouraged to note that the Government is keen to work closely with not-for-profit organisations to tackle the issue.

"Homelessness is the result of a complex set of circumstances. We need robust policy levers that set good social policy agendas, so that people are not denied access to housing and the support they need to sustain that housing and have a quality of life.

"We've shown we have the innovative strategies and collaborative approach needed to make a real impact on homelessness here in Brisbane," said Ms Walsh.

"In the past three years, the 500 Lives 500 Homes partnership has permanently housed 580 individuals and families," said Ms. Walsh. "That's a 24% reduction in family homelessness and a 32% reduction in rough sleeping, based on individuals and families registered during the campaign (2014-2017)."

Ms Walsh also welcomed the announcement of \$33 million in funding for a Redress Scheme for victims of child abuse in out-of-home care, and looks forward to learning the details of the scheme.

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