

# Housing & Homelessness - some future directions



Sector Reform – the next phase

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# Introduction

- In 1999 the Bracks Government committed to improve Victoria's homelessness response
- In 2002 the Victorian Homelessness Strategy was launched
- In 2007 we are applying learnings about complex needs
- By joining up services we have early intervention and better responses

# Joined –up Initiatives

- Joined up initiatives are improving services to those at high risk
- Housing, Human Services and Justice collaborations result in
  - clear pathways out of homelessness;
  - improved service sector coordination;
  - understanding between programs; and
  - over \$6M in additional support funding to the homelessness service system

# A strategy for reform – what's new?

How have we set the scene?

- Housing is now building on existing work with the community managed sector

Key objectives of reform?

- Strengthen existing initiatives and partnerships to achieve sustainable regional and statewide service systems, and improved client and tenant outcomes
- Improve the maintenance and strategic management of our community managed stock

# What are we building on?

- ***Creating Connections*** – Youth Homelessness Action Plan
- ***Integrated Family Violence services***
- ***Statewide Homelessness Assessment & Referral Framework***
- ***Revised funding & accountability frameworks***
- ***Accreditation & registration***

## And the benefits are...

- Registration & regulation protect government investment & importantly, regulation protects vulnerable clients by ensuring agencies are well governed and well managed
- This further ensures agencies are able to grow social housing – registered Housing Associations will achieve growth by leveraging funding & their existing housing portfolio
- Housing is committed to ensuring that growth in social housing is of benefit to all low income Victorians

# Summarising the key messages – focus of the next phase of reform

- Property management & asset growth
  - Protecting government investment
  - Increasing the amount of housing
  - New agreements on property management
- Professionalism & service quality
- Partnerships
- Each organisation needs to consider its options now and plan

# What is the time frame for reform?

*Key dates Dec 2008 & July 2009*

***By December 2007:***

- Housing support providers & Community managed housing need to consider options & core business
- They need to identify a realistic pathway
- They need to declare intent & develop a plan

***From January 2008***

- They need to act on the plan