



Government of South Australia

Department for Families and
Communities

High Needs Housing

HIGH NEEDS HOUSING UNIT

VISION

People with high needs achieve maximal housing independence and security

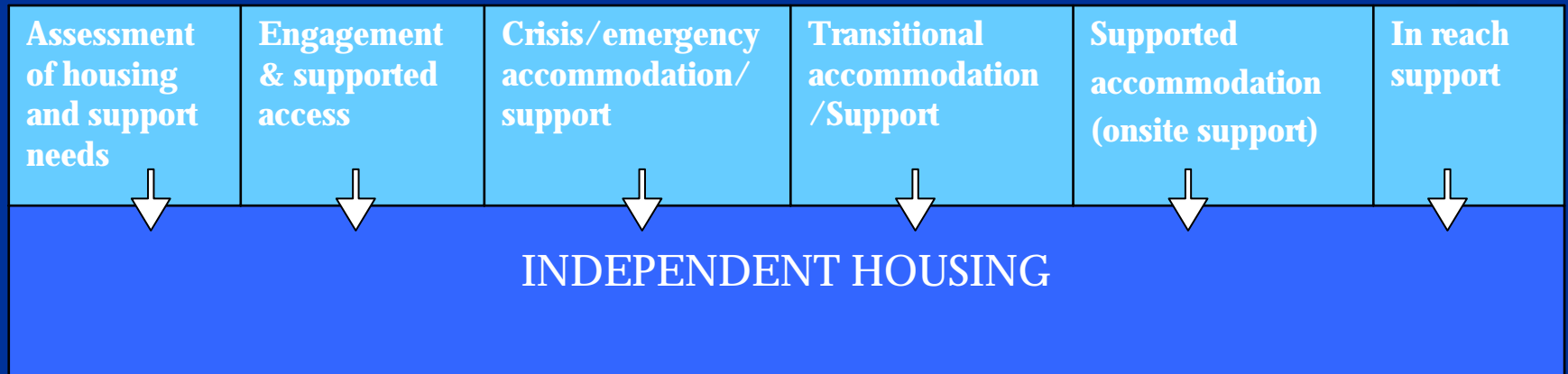
TARGET POPULATION

High Needs Housing focuses on in need/at risk individuals and families across the age spectrum within a shelter/housing continuum.

Appropriately housed	In housing stress	At risk homelessness/ institutionalisation	Without accommodation	Tenuous/insecure housing/unstable accommodation	Housing below community standards or expectations	Institutions
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HIGH NEEDS HOUSING RESPONSES

High Needs Housing is broadly defined as linked housing and support service responses. In terms of service to individuals these fall within the broad service categories detailed below.



HIGH NEEDS HOUSING UNIT

The primary objective of the High Needs Housing Unit is to ensure an appropriate, accessible continuum of linked housing and support responses for people with high needs that are effective and efficient in maximising their housing independence and security.

STRATEGIES

The following strategies define the focus of the High Needs Housing Unit:

1. Provision of **policy direction** for the development of a system of high need housing responses which operates as an integrated component of the housing system.
2. **Planning** for a sustainable system of high needs housing which fits the needs of the population in term of **supply, location and infrastructure**.

HIGH NEEDS HOUSING UNIT

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- 3. Service design and innovation** which ensures services are effective in maximising housing independence and security.
- 4. Coordination** of high needs housing with **across government** responses to in need/at risk populations.
- 5. Program and sector development** which supports achievement of high needs housing unit objectives
- 6. Establishment** of appropriate **standards and protections** for high needs housing customers.

1. Provision of policy direction for the development of a system of high needs housing responses which operates as an integrated component of the housing system.

Policy development which defines:

- Target populations and priorities
- Entry processes (assessment, allocation)
- Service responses (service options, service thresholds)
- Service pathways
- Service interfaces
- Service providers
- Exit points

2. Planning for a sustainable system of high needs housing, which fits the needs of the populations in terms of supply, location and infrastructure

Research, analysis and monitoring to determine population needs, priorities and trends, informed by:

- De-institutionalisation planning (eg., Strathmont devolution, Mental Health Reforms.)
- Exiting care planning (eg., people exiting Custodial Care, Guardianship of the Minister and Juvenile Justice).
- Supported Residential Facility closures and reforms.
- Reducing homelessness strategies and initiatives.

Capital development planning.

- Crisis Accommodation Program
- Boarding House style accommodation
- Transitional accommodation
- New housing development - 5% high need targets
- High need housing initiatives

Workforce planning

3. Service design and innovation, which ensures services are effective in maximising housing independence and security.

Further development of Supported Residential Facility and Boarding House Resident Support Programs.

Further development and expansion of tenancy support programs.

Design and implementation of innovative supported accommodation and in-reach support models including:

- Supported accommodation for people with complex needs (eg., chronic homelessness and psychiatric disability).
- Common Ground
- Foyer

4. **Coordination of high needs housing with across government responses to in need/at risk populations.**

Development of mechanisms which facilitate coordinated policy, planning and service provision.

- Communication processes
- Joint planning protocols
- Service provision protocols

Leadership of integrated across government responses to **homelessness** in conjunction with the Social Inclusion Board/Unit:

- Homelessness Strategy

5. Program and sector development which supports implementation of high needs housing policy directions.

Supported Accommodation Assistance Program (SAAP) Reform.

- Implementation of SAAP 5 strategic directions across the sector.
- Inner city SAAP sector development (eg., day centres and shelters).
- SAAP youth sector review

Supported Residential Facility (SRF) sector reform.

- SRF resident subsidy program
- Transition planning with sector

6. Establishment of appropriate protections for high needs housing customers.

Identification and implementation of relevant standards within high needs housing programs.

Development of Accommodation Act.

Fire safety standards assistance program.

PRINCIPLES

The following principles define High Needs Housing responses:

- Services are consumer focussed and able to respond flexibly to individual choice, circumstance and need.
- Services are provided in ways which maximise housing independence and security.
- Services are provided in the least restrictive setting.
- Longer term service provision as far as possible occurs within people's own homes or in homelike settings.

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- Services operate as an integrated housing continuum through which individuals can move between service options as their needs change.
- Services coordinate effectively with other relevant government and non-government services.
- Services benefit those most in need.
- Services contribute to safe and healthy communities.