



**TREASURER; MINISTER FOR COMMERCE;
SCIENCE & INNOVATION; HOUSING & WORKS**

Our Ref: 30-00703

Mr Julian Roche
Director
Western Australia Policy Forum
Level 1, AustAsia House
412 – 414 Newcastle Street
WEST PERTH WA 6005

Dear Mr Roche

Thank you for your letter regarding the Western Australia Policy Forum and the essay by Ian Carter about homelessness.

With regard to your comments about the expansion of social housing in Western Australia, I am pleased to advise I have established a Social Housing Taskforce, chaired by Ian Carter, to provide me with advice on new approaches to social housing. The Taskforce's main focus is on strategies to sustainably expand the supply of social housing.

Furthermore, I understand the Department of Housing and Works is bringing together peak social housing organisations through a series of round tables to discuss and agree upon workable policy directions for the Department. The information you have provided will assist in these discussions.

The Commonwealth and State Governments are seeking to address housing affordability via a new National Affordable Housing Agreement (NAHA) as part of Council of Australian Governments (COAG) negotiations. Under the NAHA, the Commonwealth will provide the States with an additional \$46 million over four years to help address homelessness and housing issues. In addition, three National Partnership Agreements were agreed at COAG to help address homelessness, social housing, and remote Indigenous housing. The funding was agreed as follows:

Homelessness:

\$800 million over five years nationwide, which is a joint Commonwealth/States initiative.

Social Housing:

\$400 million over two years nationwide, to fund an additional 1,600 to 2,100 dwellings across Australia with a homelessness focus.

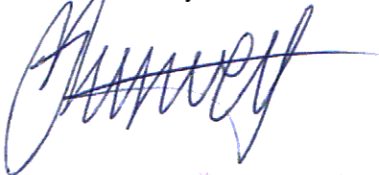
Remote Indigenous Housing:

\$1.94 billion over ten years nationwide, which will fund up to 4,200 new houses, and upgrades to 4,800 houses.

The above funding is a positive step, but significant work remains to be done to address the increasing demand for services and to have a meaningful impact on homelessness in this State. I can assure you of my commitment in this regard.

I trust that this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Troy Buswell', written over a horizontal line.

**HON TROY BUSWELL MLA
MINISTER FOR HOUSING AND WORKS**

27 JAN 2009