



Housing Ministers' Conference

Communiqué
Sydney, Friday 28 May 2010

PROGRESS ON HOUSING MINISTERS' REFORMS

Housing Ministers from the Commonwealth, States and Territories and the Australian Local Government Association met in Sydney today to progress their extensive work program on housing supply and affordability, social housing and homelessness.

Ministers were briefed by the Chair of the National Housing Supply Council, which provided the setting for subsequent discussion on current and future actions to address the housing supply and affordability challenges confronting Australia.

Recognising their unique position as the largest owner/operators of rental housing in Australia and providers of a wide range of assistance supporting people to rent or purchase affordably, Housing Ministers affirmed their critical role in progressing the COAG's Housing Supply and Affordability agenda.

Housing Ministers announced that the fourth round of the National Rental Affordability Scheme will open on 14 June 2010. Ministers discussed opportunities for medium scale investment and encouraged applications from investors wanting to build at least 20 new affordable rental homes for low and moderate income households, with priority given to applications to build 100 or more dwellings. Applications for round four will be assessed as they are received and the round will close on 14 December 2010.

Ministers discussed the general progress of the national housing reforms and housing initiatives, and confirmed a process of reporting progress to COAG at mid-year including a report of the first six months of the implementation of the Homelessness National Partnership.

Housing Ministers reaffirmed their commitment to the growth and regulation of the community housing sector through their review of the discussion paper released by the Commonwealth in April, and they welcomed feedback from the public consultation process currently underway.

Ministers noted progress on homelessness reforms including progress on the development of a National Quality Framework as well as feedback from the first stage consultations, service integration of homelessness services with mainstream services; support for quality services; improvement of homelessness data collection and management; and delivery of a workforce development strategy. Ministers agreed that these key points would form the basis for further discussion with Community Services and Disability Ministers at a joint meeting in July 2010.

Housing Ministers thanked Victoria's Richard Wynne for his role as Chair over the past 14 months and welcomed Jennifer Rankine from South Australia as Chair for the next term.

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