Early intervention and prevention: what works
Flateau et al, 2008: tenancy support programs

• Most remained in private rental accommodation and public housing after 12 months

• On average, clients had reduced rental arrears and tenant liabilities after 3 months

• 94% of public tenants reported increased satisfaction with housing (84% of private tenants)

• 50% of public tenants reported increased overall satisfaction with life (71% of private tenants)

• The cost of providing services were more than offset by the savings in government health and justice costs.
The cost of homelessness and the net benefit of homelessness programs: a national study

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Zaretsky 2013: tenancy support programs

After 12 months:

• 54% thought they would have been sleeping rough if they had not received assistance

• 23% more clients had stable accommodation

• 54% of clients had improved satisfaction with life

• The mean annual net change (in health, justice and welfare costs) was $1,934 more per client... mainly due to increased use of appropriate health services.
Housing and Support Initiative
HASI evaluation, Social Policy Research Centre (2012):

- Positive consumer outcomes for:
  - mental health hospital admissions
  - mental health independence in daily living
  - stable tenancies
  - community activities
  - social participation
  - involvement in education and voluntary or paid work

- Average cost was ~$29.7m per year (09-10 dollars)

- Avoided cost of hospitalisations was >$30 m per year
What difference it made

Sustained housing
On entry, our participants were chronically homeless.
After 2 years with MISHA: 89% were still in secure housing.

Substance use disorder
The drop in substance use disorders was particularly dramatic:
Before MISHA: 37%
After 2 years: 7%

Mental health disorders
Were halved

What it saves

Health, justice and welfare cost to Government per person per year
Before MISHA: $32,254
After 2 years: $24,251

That’s a saving to government of
$8,002 per person per year
HASI and staff client quotes:

... it could be that their property care greatly improved, it could be that their general outlook greatly improved. It could be that their arrears have stopped. They’re now getting the financial help that they need ... They’re able to then sustain the tenancy ... They’re good after HASI, there’s a great improvement.

I can't really explain how much [the housing provider] have done for me. I was everyday trying to think of ways to kill myself. Now, I don't want to die. It's just a really big difference.

The help and support I got from HASI was A1 ... I wasn’t on my own any any more ...
Our plan to prevent & reduce homelessness

HALVE:
youth homelessness by 2020
total homelessness by 2025
rental stress for low income earners

Funding, continuity of commitment, political leadership
Shared effort, harness institutional and philanthropic investment opportunities

ACTION POINTS

Preventing homelessness
1. Make income support and rental assistance sufficient
2. Expand tenancy support services to people at risk of homelessness
3. More early intervention models for young people
4. Increase efforts to reduce domestic and family violence
5. Adopt zero tolerance to people becoming homeless when they leave state care

Supporting people to exit homelessness
6. Tailor homeless services to provide individualised wrap around support and trauma informed care
7. Scale up Housing First models

More homes and stronger communities
8. Fund 200,000 new social houses; fund capital works programs to update existing social housing; and create a pipeline of mezzanine level housing
9. Build 4,200 new Aboriginal owned and controlled homes
10. Make a 10 year commitment to strengthen communities with concentrated disadvantage