

**bethany**

# **A Place To Call Home**

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# Background

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In 2008, the Federal Government committed to deliver 600 additional dwellings over a period of 5 years.

One of these initiatives was the **A Place to Call Home** (APTCH) program.



# Aim

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To reduce the level of homelessness in Australia and increase the long term stability of families living in assisted accommodation.

The provision of secure accommodation allows households to remain in their housing once their circumstances have been stabilised.

# Objectives

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- Create safe places to live for people who have experienced homelessness
- Reduce transience in the community
- Link families into their local communities
- Link families with local support services



# Objectives (continued)

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- Maintain a successful long term tenancy
- Build capacity in individuals and families to move forward with their lives and become functioning and contributing members of society



# Support Provision

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Families are provided with case managed support for a 12-14 month period.



At the conclusion of the support period tenancies are transferred to long-term Public Housing and a replacement property is provided to the program.

# Eligibility

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- Families
- History of homelessness; Families in housing crisis
- Willingness to engage with support
- With a combination of the following:
  - Links to community
  - Experience of Family Violence
  - Mental health difficulties
  - Drug and alcohol issues
  - Indigenous or CALD



# Victoria

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- 118 accommodation units
- 50 places for singles within the Elizabeth Street Supportive Housing Development (Common Ground) Melbourne.
- 68 provided to the Transitional Housing Management (THM) Program located in outer metropolitan and rural/regional Victoria.

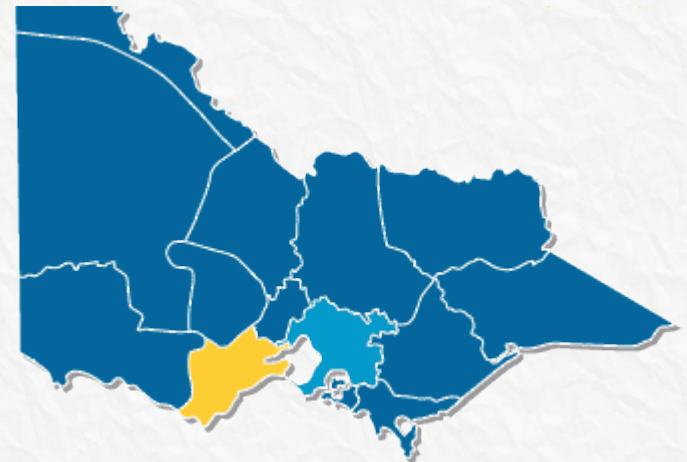




# Barwon Area

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- APTCH was established in the Barwon South West Region in early 2009.
- 12 properties were allocated.
- Our target was reached by October 2011.
- A mix of adult and youth properties.



# Partnership Model

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Other agencies:

- Referrals
- Participate in the allocation of clients
- Governance of the program
- Ongoing development and
- Implementation of the program



# What our partners think

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*APTCH is successful, it reduces the need for clients to displace themselves and move... helps them settle into the community.*

*It's not just a roof over their heads... helps families link to other services... holistic approach, education, jobs...*

# Allocation Process

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- Property is identified as being suitable
- A vacancy is listed with partner agencies
- Referrals are received
- Allocation meeting held
- Decision made
- Family and support agency notified



# What works

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- Regular attendance at meetings
- Ongoing communication between partner agencies
- A refined selection process
- Allocation tool



# Challenges

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- Acknowledgement that not all families fit the APTCH model; Continued communication between agencies to ensure best outcomes for families.



# Feedback from our clients

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*My life has been changed, I have a house, a new family because we are all very happy. Now I just need a job.*

*...(I got) support to get housing and change a difficult situation with my children. Things are more settled and happier now.*