

# SOUTHERN HOMELESSNESS SERVICES NETWORK

## Strategic Plan 2023 - 2026



### HOMELESSNESS IN THE SOUTHERN REGION

**22,411**

Households supported by Specialist Homelessness Services (SHS)  
(LASN data 2021-2022)



Of those supported by member services:

- 40% experienced family violence
- 11% were young people alone
- 8% were Aboriginal
- 26% exited support to social housing
- 31% exited support to private rental

### On Census night 2021

8,548 were counted as homeless.

Of those:

- 158 were rough sleeping
- 1,756 were in supported accommodation
- 578 couch surfing
- 2,895 were in rooming houses
- 2,869 were in "severely" crowded accommodation



### ABOUT THE SHSN

The Southern Homelessness Services Network (SHSN) comprises all funded Specialist Homelessness Services in the Southern Region including services providing crisis, transitional, long term, family violence and youth support and accommodation. The SHSN seeks to work collaboratively to end homelessness in the Southern region.

### SHSN MEMBER AGENCIES

- Better Health Network
- Moira
- Thorne Harbour Health
- Emerge
- NEAMI National
- VincentCare
- Ermha 365
- Ngwala Willumbong
- WAYSS
- Fusion
- Sacred Heart Mission
- Whitelion
- Good Shepherd
- South East Community Links
- Windermere
- Launch Housing
- South Port Community Housing
- Wintringham
- Melbourne City Mission
- The Salvation Army
- YWCA

## **SHSN Strategic Objective 1: Working together to end homelessness**

<b>Priority</b>	<b>We will</b>
1.1 Developing strong partnerships with cross sectors	Work with family violence, mental health and other sectors to improve outcomes for people who are homeless.
1.2 Increase authentic Housing First responses in the Southern Region	Increase the shared understanding of Housing First approaches and advocate for an increase in programs with this focus.
1.3 Advocate for a pipeline of low-income housing supply in the Southern region	Work with all levels of Government to elevate the housing needs of the Southern region.

## **SHSN Strategic Objective 2: Act as a conduit between DFFH and regional services sector to inform policy**

<b>Priority</b>	<b>We will</b>
2.1 Develop and maintain a clear communication pathway between the sector and DFFH	Work collaboratively with DFFH and provide quantitative and qualitative data to communicate local needs.
2.2 Work with key partners to use data to inform our priorities	Use existing data and scope additional data sources to support advocacy activities.

## **SHSN Strategic Objective 3: Strengthen the coordinated homelessness service system in the best interests of clients**

<b>Priority</b>	<b>We will</b>
3.1 Strengthen partnerships with other sectors to benefit shared clients at the operational level	Support Functional Zero projects and use other opportunities to further enhance service coordination across sectors to support clients.
3.2 Embedding the voice of people with lived experience (including First Nations and CALD voices) to inform what we do	Explore opportunities for people with lived experience of homelessness to contribute to SHSN activities.
3.3 Advocating for Homelessness Service System reform	Collaborate to identify and proactively advocate for service system improvement priorities.